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RECREATION

Playground

April 1947

Issue



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RECREATION

in April 1947

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Birthday wishes to the National Recreation Association are in order this month. The Association will be 41 years old on April 12, 1947



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WAS stronger and cleverer, no doubt, than other men, and in many broad lines of business he had grown rich, until his wealth exceeded exaggeration. One morning, in his office, he directed a request to his confidential lawyer to come to him in the afternoon—he intended to have his will drawn. A will is a solemn matter, even with men whose life is given up to business, and who are by habit mindful of the future. After giving this direction he took up no other matter, but

sat at his desk alone and in silence.

It was a day when summer was first new. The pale leaves upon the trees were starting forth upon the yet unbending branches. The grass in the parks had a freshness in its green like the freshness of the blue in the sky and of the yellow of the sun,—a freshness to make one wish that life might renew its youth. The clear breezes from the south wantoned about, and then were still, as if loath to go finally away. Half idly, half thoughtfully, the rich man wrote upon the white paper before him, beginning what he wrote with capital letters, such as he had not made since, as a boy in school, he had taken pride in his skill with the pen:



The Name of God, Amen.

I, CHARLES LOUNSBURY, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, [he lingered on the word memory] do now make and publish this my last will and testament, in order, as justly as I may, to distribute my interests in the world among succeeding men.

And first, that part of my interests which is known among men and recognized in the sheepbound volumes of the law as my property, being inconsiderable and of none account, I make no account of in this my will.

My right to live, it being but a life estate, is not at my disposal, but, these things excepted, all else in the world I now proceed to devise and bequeath.

Item: And first, I give to good fathers and mothers, but in trust for their children, nevertheless, all good little words of praise and all quaint pet names, and I charge said parents to use them justly, but generously, as the needs of their children shall require.

Item: I leave to children exclusively, but only for the life of their childhood, all and every the dandelions of the fields and the daisies thereof, with the right to play among them freely, according to the custom of children, warning them at the same time against the thistles. And I devise to children the yellow shores of creeks and the golden sands beneath the waters thereof, with the dragon-flies that skim the surface of said waters, and the odors of the willows that dip into said waters, and the white clouds that float high over the giant trees. And I leave to children the long, long days to be merry in, in a thousand ways, and the Night and the Moon, and the train of the Milky Way to wonder at, but subject, nevertheless, to the rights hereinafter given to lovers; and I give to each child the right to choose a star that shall be his, and I direct that the child's father shall tell him the name of it, in order that the child shall always remember the name of that star after he has learned and forgotten astronomy. Item: I devise to boys jointly all the useful idle fields and commons where ball may be played, and all snow-clad hills where one may coast, and all streams and ponds where one may skate, to have and to hold the same for the period of their boyhood. And all meadows, with the clover blooms and butterflies thereof; and all woods, with their appurtenances of squirrels and whirring birds and echoes and strange noises; and all distant places which may be visited, together with the adventures there found, I do give to said boys to be theirs. And I give to said boys each his own place at the fireside at night, with all pictures that may be seen in the burning wood or coal, to enjoy without let or hindrance and without any incumbrance of cares.

Item: To lovers I devise their imaginery world, with whatever they may need, as the stars of the sky, the red, red roses by the wall, the snow of the hawthorn, the sweet strains of music, or aught else they may desire to figure to each other the lastingness and beauty of their love.

Item: To young men jointly, being joined in a brave, mad crowd, I devise and bequeath all boisterous, inspiring sports of rivalry. I give to them the disdain of weakness and undaunted confidence in their own strength. Though they are rude and rough, I leave to them alone the power of making lasting friendships and of possessing companions and to them exclusively I give all merry songs and brave choruses to sing, with smooth voices to troll them forth.

JIPM: And to those who are no longer children, or youths, or lovers, I leave Memory, and I leave to them the volumes of the poems of Burns and Shakespeare, and of other poets, if there are others, to the end that they may live the old days over again freely and fully, without tithe or diminution; and to those who are no longer children, or youths, or lovers, I leave, too, the knowledge of what a rare, rare world it is.

WILLISTON FISH

The National Recreation Association stands ready to make effective the impulse of those desiring to carry out the spirit of this will.

RECREATION - -

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Bird's-Eye View

RECREATION, in this month of April 1947, goes to press for the four hundred eighty-first time, for this issue is Number 1 in Volume 41. As we enter our fifth decade of publication it seems high time to let our readers everywhere look a little into what goes into the magazine and how it gets there and why.

RECREATION is a professional magazine. It is not to be found on newsstands, can be purchased directly from the National Recreation Association or through any regularly authorized subscription agency. Recreation presents news and views of the recreation movement wherever and under whatever sponsorship they occur. It has done so for 40 years—though not always under the same name or in the same format.

Short History

The magazine gave its birth cry in 1907. Its sponsors in baptism named it The Playground. It measured, at birth, 5¼" x 8½" to the page, numbered 16 pages to the issue, sold for 10 cents a copy or \$1 a year. Like any healthy, normal baby the newborn magazine grew and developed and went through many changes of face and form.

In January, 1931, it changed its name and became, briefly, The Playground and Recreation Magazine, then—the next month—Recreation. In April, 1931, it celebrated its adulthood by donning the now familiar blue cover. In that dress it has appeared each month since.

Pertinent Facts

Each issue of the magazine is an editorial challenge and an exciting one. Each month there are many pages of blank paper to be filled with material that will be of interest and value to the thousands of people all over the country who read Recreation. Each issue must try to strike a balance between the many emphases which come within the scope of recreation. Each year's volume must seek to cover a range of subject matter that would put Mr. Heinz's 57 varieties to shame and, at the same time, to offer material timed to fit special occasions in the community program.

It depends in large measure on the readers of RECREATION whether this coverage is rich and full or whether this or that aspect of recreation, this or that geographical area, this or that theory or idea, is covered but skimpily—or not at all. No article is paid for. Each is a contribution from some friend of the recreation movement, some person who believes enough in what he is doing or in what he has seen done to want to spread the word further. If, now and again, you feel inclined to quarrel with the editorial policy because your favorite activity seems to be slighted, remember, we depend on you to send us your stories.

The articles that are sent in each month are fitted into a framework of regular features—an editorial; a section of short news notes, "World at Play"; a list of current magazines and pamphlets of interest to recreation workers; and a page or two of book reviews. Between and around these sections come articles and stories sent to us by all kinds of people from all kinds of places. For them all there is one least common denominator—an interest in recreation. Now and again articles or parts of articles which have appeared elsewhere are reprinted—always by permission of the original publisher.

Specialties

Each year, come what may, there is a special issue devoted to playgrounds. It usually appears in April. Periodically, an issue is given over to the Yearbook, the compendium of recreation statistics. (There will, for example, be a Yearbook issue in 1947, though there was none in 1946.) Now and again special issues are prepared on some division of the general subject, recreation, if conditions seem to warrant such spotlighting. Such an issue was published in June 1946 on recreation in state agencies. The index to each volume appears in the March number.

Analysis

Every now and then somebody is inclined to point an accusing finger at Recreation, saying in effect, "What goes on there in New York? Why don't they publish more material on this activity or on that kind of program? Why do they put so much emphasis on this or that or the other thing, this or that or the other person or community?" Sometimes for the reasons stated three

paragraphs ago, those accusations are justified. Sometimes, however, they are not justified by the facts. As a matter of interest, therefore, we are including here an analysis of the feature stories that appeared in Recreation from January 1946 through January 1947.

Arts and crafts 5	
Camping and hiking 5	
Church 5	
Clubs 4	
Community centers 6	
Dancing 1	
Drama 5	
Education-recreation 6	
Gardening 1	
Hobbies 5	
Inter-group activities	
Layout and equipment 5	
Leadership and training 3	
Memorials 3	
Movies 3	
Museums 2	
Music 5	
Nature 5	
Philosophy of recreation 7	
Programs-in-action 10	
Publicity 1	
Reading and libraries 6	
Radio 6	
Recreation for the elderly 3	
Recreation for the workers 1	
Recreation for the armed forces 3	
Recreation in institutions 3	
Recreation in small towns 1	
Rural recreation 5	
Social recreation 2	
Special day programs 6	
Sports, games and athletics 12	
Youth programs 3	

For Contributors

The more articles you send us, the better magazine we can send you. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the two words in bold type at the head of this section will come to mean all of you. There are one or two facts that we'd like all you potential contributors to know because these facts will save time and energy all around.

Many of you have, as readers, indicated your preference for short articles — articles which can be read, marked, learned, and inwardly digested in the relatively short reading time at the disposal of busy people. So we suggest that, wherever possible, you keep your stories within a limit of 1,500 to 1,800 words. This is not to say, however, that if you need 2,000 or 2,100 words to speak your piece the way it should be written the material will not be considered.

Good action photographs are very gratefully received. We are always on the lookout for excel-

lent pictures of people doing things. If pictures are submitted, they should be glossy prints and, like the artcles, they cannot be paid for.

Material should reach the editor's desk at least six weeks before publication date. This, of course, is especially important to remember if you are sending in seasonal material. Remember, too, that we try to anticipate special occasions by at least a month. Hallowe'en material appears in the September issue, suggestions for the Christmas program in November, and so on. We cannot promise, sight unseen, to publish everything that reaches us. We can and do promise to send you a letter telling you why we turn down your material—if we have to turn it down.

Toward the Future

Some of you have been good enough to send us suggestions about changes you would like to see in the magazine. We are grateful indeed for all your ideas, and we'll welcome them any time you want to send them along. Some we have incorporated into our editorial policy. Others we have had, regretfully, to leave alone. In nearly every case this let-it-be policy has been dictated by finances-or the lack of them. The magazine's production costs are now greater than ever before. It is not, therefore, currently possible to use such attractive but very expensive features as color, cartoons and the like. Increased circulation, with its corollary of increased advertising, is one answer to more interesting issues. Until the time comes when circulation reaches the place where it will attract advertisers, the luxury items of publishing must, for RECREATION, remain in a dream state. We are working "tooth and nail" to reach this point and we are making progress. Any of you who are interested can help us by following the slogan that used to hang on a hair-dresser's wall many years ago - long before the time of the "Beauty Salon." The slogan read "If you like me tell others, if you don't tell me."

An editor had cause to admonish his son because of the lad's reluctance to attend school.

"You must go every day and learn to be a great scholar," said the fond father, "otherwise you can never be an editor. What would you do if your magazine came out full of mistakes?"

"Father," was the reply, "I'd blame the printer."

And the father wept with joy, because he knew he had a successor for the editorial chair.

Playgrounds 1946

Spotlight on Energy and Imagination

SUMMERTIME IN 1946 was playtime for hundreds of thousands of Americans. Automobiles were rolling again. Parks and beaches were full of men and women and children with nothing on their minds and a holiday gleam in their eyes.

And playgrounds were full—full of small people and large people, young people and middle-aged people and old people. Staffs, war-drained for the past few years, were back to their normal complement of leaders; had, in some cases, increased in response to the increasing demand for community recreation. Returned servicemen and women were finding opportunities to try out new ideas. The reports of summer playground activities from every part of the country reflected a new spirit of energy, a fresh eagerness to get at the job and do it well. Playgrounds in 1946 "gave



Courtesy Recreation Department, Montclair, N. J.

themselves a shake, shake, shake, and turned themselves about."

In the short compass of a page or two of magazine print, it isn't possible to point with our kind of avuncular pride to all the excellencies the summer produced. What follows is a running comment culled from many reports, a composite picture of a summer patched together from many programs.

Themes and Special Occasions

There were more ideas for themes — for the whole season and for each week in the season—



Courtesy Recreation Department, Montclair, N. J.

than you could shake a whole hedge of sticks at. One community built the program around a United Nations Summer. The seven playground weeks were assigned to Great Britain, China, France, Australia, South America, Russia, America. Each country was highlighted on its proper occasion by a quiz and national stories, games and songs woven through the usual activities on the grounds.

Hi! Neighbor week seemed to be a pretty general favorite for a starter. Many communities stressed getting acquainted, and quickly, not only with the children who would be coming over and over to the grounds but with the neighborhoods which each ground served. Leaders were urged to make neighborhood visits. One playground director suggested for first week special events a Hi! Neighbor party, a name party or an autograph hunt. Again and again playground leaders' manuals talked about family participation—father and son teams and games, mother and daughter activities. "The playground is for the whole neighborhood, not just for the small fry," runs like a ground bass beneath the summer's play tunes.

Special events were, in general, planned with ingenuity and imagination. Some leaders found inspiration for program highlights in local history and folklore or in the signs of local geological events that were shaking the world long before the first man came along to record history. Others

adapted tested playground procedures to new moods and new uses.

One city made a survey of the special events used on its 48 playgrounds. Rather to their own amazement, staff members found that in one week there were 85 different kinds of special programs. Included in this list were such intriguing activities as a book hike, a bubble-blowing contest, bug and insect races, a hodge-podge day, a pigtail style show and freckles contest.

The moral of the sum of all the reports seems to be that where imagination is in the driver's seat there is no speed limit for program movement.

All Together

Many playground executives were putting their minds to the job of mixing neighborhood ingredients now and again in a community-wide broth. One city department, in its pre-season instructions to playground leaders, suggested a list of activities to be carried on at individual playgrounds and another list of community-wide activities. Field days, play days, and play festivals were other services used to bring many groups together for an "all together" occasion.

In one city children were picked up at their nearest neighborhood playground and driven to a central place where they took part in this varied schedule of events:



Courtesy Recreation Department, Montclair, N. J.

10:10 Skip rope race (girls)

10:20 Kangaroo race (boys)

10:30 One-foot hopping race (girls)

10:40 50 yd. dash (boys)

10:50 50 yd. dash (girls)

11:00 100 yd. dash (boys)

11:10 Horseshoe tournament Tether ball tournament

11:15 Ping-pong tournament (boys and girls)

Volleyball tournament (team from each park)

11:30 Newcomb tournament (team from each park) Box hockey tournament (boys and girls from each park)

11:45 Checkers (boys and girls)
Chinese checkers (boys and girls)
Croquet (boys and girls)
Washers (boys and girls)

Jacks (girls)

12:00 Lunch (children bring sack lunches, drinks furnished by the recreation department)

1:00 Nature quiz

1:15 Storytelling

1:45 Tug-o-war

When the field meet was over the children had an hour or so of play in the wading pool before they were returned to their respective parks.

Another city held its thirteenth annual recreation festival on June 7, 8, and 9. "This festival," says the program, "marks the opening of the sum-



Courtesy Recreation Department, Montclair, N. J.



Courtesy Recreation Department, Montclair, N. J.

mer playground season. It is held at this season of the year to inform our citizens of the facilities available in the city for occupying the time of their children in recreational activities. It also serves to acquaint the adult population . . . with the splendid facilities which we have here for recreation and sports activities for people of all ages." During the three days, the city's parks and playgrounds paraded their promises for summer enjoyment. The activities listed in the program included boxing and fly-casting and golf; baseball and softball; badminton, archery and tennis; square dancing and boating, by motor or sail; star gazing and music; visiting the zoo and swimming; crafts and games and cooking and parties and recreative sports.

Another town chose a twilight play festival in late August as the occasion and the time when all playgrounds should meet to demonstrate their programs and their skills for the whole community. The youngsters gave impressive exhibits of folk dancing and games, relays and skits, arranged to show how boys and girls of all ages were spending parts of their vacation. Another exhibit was set up to show the craft fruits of the grounds.

Safety

Safety was a very real consideration in the season. Report after report emphasizes safety rules, stresses the absence of accidents or their small number. One department took for its slogan "Play Today and Tomorrow," got out an attractive, mimeographed safety bulletin for its playgrounders. The bulletin pointed out that safety can be fun and proceeded to show how this fact could be demonstrated by safety clubs which would hold regular meetings and adopt a safety project. Each club would keep a record of all accidents on its ground and would discuss them and analyze their causes. The bulletin suggested games for stressing safety and 17 safety projects among which were:

Poster and slogan contests

Puppet shows

Constructing first aid boxes

Scrap books

1500

Quiz programs

Making up safety "nursery" rhymes

The rest of the bulletin was given over to safety rules to be followed when using playground apparatus and equipment.

Publicity

Many heads were scratched, many brains wracked, many thinking headgears donned last spring over the question of setting the whole town to talking about playgrounds. Probably the most generally used media of communication were newspapers and radios. Many communities found that their playgrounds were basically good copy for the city editor. And, with the war pressure off public service radio programs, more and more playgrounds went on the air for 15 or 30 minutes a week. The increase in the number of playgrounds reporting radio programs was so marked as to indicate a more or less general trend toward this combination of publicity and activity program.

Some cities worked out supplementary kinds of publicity. The recreation section of a council of social agencies worked out a summer schedule of activities sponsored by youth serving agencies and recreation groups. It included such activities as band concerts, baseball, camping and day camping, co-ed activities, daily vacation Bible school, fishing, handcrafts, hiking, picnic areas, playgrounds, swimming programs, training courses. A recreation department issued a bulletin titled Suggestions to Parents, designed to help mothers and dads help their children find wise and happy vacation fun. "The use of free time," said this bulletin, "can make or break anybody, child or adult. The influences which determine how it will be used are many. But the home and parents are probably the most potent influences. To be able to guide young people in their choices when they confront leisure, parents need some knowledge of ways and means, understanding of children's interests and a lot of imagination." The bulletin then listed things to do in the home, in the backyard and away from home with the whole family. In still another town every resident received each week a copy of the Playogram, an attractive one-page bulletin which carried each week's program and one or more photographs taken on the playgrounds.

So went a summer with games and revels and high good times. There was more, much more, of imagination and energy and ingenuity. This sampling of some of the many reports that came into the National Recreation Association's offices will, we hope, raise a small fire in the hearts of all recreation workers everywhere—and, perhaps, suggest some fresh approaches for *Playgrounds*, 1947.

Winning Spirit

THE SPIRIT THAT WINS was recently manifested by a small boy who was learning to skate with a number of older playmates. The frequent mishaps of the little fellow awakened the pity of a tender-hearted woman.

"Why, Sonny, you are getting all bumped up," she said. "Come up here and watch the others skate."

The tears of the last downfall were still rolling down his glowing cheeks, but he looked from his adviser to the shining steel of his feet, and answered: "I didn't get some new skates to give up with; I got 'em to learn how with!"—The Benefitter. Safety Division, Globe Oil and Refining Co., Wichita, Kansas.

Junior Chamber of Commerce, after attending a state meeting of the Ohio State Junior Chamber of Commerce, got the idea that more could be done for the youth of Columbus. His idea was a program in the summertime when youngsters do not have the aid of school curriculum and school recreation programs to fulfill their time.

Before presenting his plan to his organization, this Jaycee member had a long talk with the head of the City of Columbus Recreation Department about the possibilities of using Jaycee man power to aid the city recreation program. It was suggested that perhaps the Jaycees might spend some time on the playgrounds developing an activity which could extend from one visit to the next and thereby create interest that would bring about a back-tothe-playground-and-off-the-street migration of the kids. It was felt that the war years had permitted little more than a policing of the playgrounds, instead of planned programs with proper recreation leadership. This feeling was verified by the recreation executive and his wholehearted support was given to any plan which the Junior Chamber of Commerce might follow. He suggested the possibility of following a plan inaugurated by the National Amateur Athletic Union in their Junior Proficiency Tests as a good guide for starting a program.

Three days later, at a luncheon with the president and the board members of the Junior Chamber, a possible plan for organizing a summer youth program was outlined and approved.

An interesting committee was set up with five time-tested Jaycee workers, four new members and four returning veterans. From this nucleus sprang the success of the summer youth program.

The committee first met on March 21 and at that time, the chairman outlined his program and asked the committee for suggested changes that might develop its possibilities. At this meeting, the importance of publicity and supervision was outlined. The proper publicity men were chosen. Supervision was charged to two returning veterans who had had physical training experience in the Navy. The other member was a former all Big Ten football player at Ohio State University.

A complete planning meeting was called on April 16 where the whole structure of the "summer youth program" was outlined and dates for its start and completion were set. It was decided to have an orientation meeting of workers for the purpose of training. At this meeting, too, it was decided that a fitting name for the program should be decided upon, and a contest was planned among

The Story of Sportest

By R. A. BRATTON Columbus, Ohio

Volunteers from the Jaycees lend a hand on the playgrounds

the Jaycee members for selection of this name. It was decided to take over the regular Junior Chamber May 2 luncheon as the "Kick-off Luncheon" when a prize would be given for the winning name.

Sportest Is Born

At the May 2 luncheon, Sportest was announced as the winning name. The name was derived from sport contest. This luncheon was attended by two members of the recreation department, one of whom gave a dramatic talk on the weakness of recreation facilities and showed how a program such as ours could greatly aid the youth of Columbus.

At the same time, through the courtesy of the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce a movie, As the Twig Is Bent, was shown. The film showed two children, one getting the proper start, the other a bad start; one following the path the right way and the other the way to trouble.

Newspaper publicity was started early in June. It had been planned to precede the start of the project by about two weeks, and a natural build-up was made to the first entrance of the Junior Chamber of Commerce on the playground.

A bright, three-colored badge was secured as emblem of the project. It served as registration certificate for each child who entered Sportest.

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A captain's notebook was made for the captain on each playground. It included a place for registering each contestant as to age, sex, and accomplishment. It also had instructions for administering the project.

Contestants were registered in the age groups 6 to 15. There were five groups for competition so that every age had a fair and equal chance. The plan was to follow six pre-selected A.A.U. events and run one event each week on Wednesday night when the Jaycees would be on the playground.

In choosing only six events for participation the committee in charge departed somewhat from the A.A.U. physical fitness tests. The A.A.U. plan calls for the completion of six events, five of which are required while the sixth may be chosen from among four alternates. The Sportest program eliminated the element of choice. The six events offered in Columbus were the five A.A.U. requirements—sprints, walk and run, sit-ups, pull-ups, standing broad jump — and the baseball throw, which was one of the four choices allowed in the physical fitness tests.

Two other programs were set up, one a district elimination, the other city-wide finals at the Ohio State University stadium. On June 12, one week before the start of the program, the Jaycees held a picnic with the purpose of training workers.

A committee was set up with the purpose of securing prizes, donations of money and gifts totaling over \$300 for the city-wide finals.

Evaluation

Sportest was rather slow in catching on as it was an extremely new and different idea in Columbus. By the time of the finals, the name had become known and the finals were very well received. Newspaper publicity in the three major newspapers in the city and neighborhood papers was very generous. Radio also cooperated to the fullest.

The National A.A.U. furnished proficiency certificates to be given to each contestant who proved his ability in the six events held. The standards were not so difficult but that the greater part of the contestants could get a certificate. The number, however, was held down to 96 by the lack of

continuous weekly participation, since a contestant was required to participate every week for six weeks. Some of the supervisors of the playgrounds or the Jaycee captains on the playgrounds went out of their way to run events on other nights so that absentees could qualify.

The finals held at Ohio State University stadium were very well accepted by the contestants. Contestants were chosen from the winners on each playground and, one week before the finals, a district elimination—three playgrounds to a district—was held. Then the district finalists competed in the city-wide finals. One especially interesting event was a relay race combining the five age groups as a relay team.

Following the Sportest finals, the committee was called together and asked about undertaking the project in future years. The group was unanimous in its decision to continue next year, though they felt there should be some change of procedure. Plans for 1947 will show changes as follows:

The eight week Sportest program is to be cut to four weeks by combining two events per evening. The length of the program brought about a dwindling contestant interest and presented a severe manpower problem due to vacations.

Publicity will be better planned and a means for wider distribution to neighborhood papers will be found.

Next year's captains' notebooks will be given to one person for preparation. This year's notebooks served their purpose, but they were too short.

A meeting with the recreation department playground supervisors will be held outlining the complete program and introducing each supervisor to the captain assigned to his playground.

The prize committee will start work at the first of the project and secure a suitable trophy for the finals.

The Ohio State Junior Chamber of Commerce may adopt a similar project as a state-wide project with possibilities of accepting the Columbus ideas. There would then be local participation, citywide finals and a state-wide final for the youngsters of Ohio wherever there is a Junior Chamber of Commerce.

"The health of a democratic society may best be measured by the quality and quantity of the volunteer leadership which it produces."—Work with Youth, December 1946.

Paradise

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PARADISE is a place on a map. It can be located exactly and given bounds in Meridian, Mississippi. But this physical plot of ground, together with its buildings—designed for use rather than proportion—fulfills all the promise of the dictionary definition of a less tangible paradise. Paradise (Mississippi) is "a place of bliss, a region of delight . . . a state of happiness" for an assorted collection of children, goats, dogs, kittens and bugs.

Paradise is part of an adventure in mingling work and play so that nobody knows where one leaves off and the other begins. The adventure belongs to "Miss Sadie"—to Miss Sadie and Emmaline and Leonard and all the children from two to six years old who have made it and are continuing to make it. It is, in a sense and putting it pompously, an educational experiment. Miss Sadie believes that children should do what they like, to be sure, but that they should also learn to like what they have to do. She practices her preaching at Kendallwood of which Paradise is a part.

Paradise got its start four years ago when Miss Sadie bought—as play space for a group of children left in her charge—a piece of land on the outskirts of Meridian and adjacent to the city's Highland Park. She thought she'd need a shelter for cold weather and rainy days and there was an unused building in her backyard. The problem was how to move it. Miss Sadie was stumped—stumped, that is, until she found Leonard and his craftsmanship and his truck and his endless patience.

Leonard is thick-set and slow and unlettered—a carpenter, plumber, mover, barber, bricklayer, hog-killer, cook, gardener. By the time he finished moving that shelter house, he had used all his skills (with the possible exception of hog-killing) and he had become, with Emmaline (Miss Sadie's young assistant) a permanent part of the "organization." Later Miss Sadie and Leonard made a bigger house for Paradise, made it from the discarded doors of ancient box cars and joined it to the shelter house by a covered passageway.

Paradise is the place where, within reason, Miss Sadie's children do as they like. A block away stands a brick building, once a store. This is the



Courtesy Recreation Department, Tallahassee, Fla.

"schoolhouse" and here activities are carefully planned. For at the schoolhouse the youngsters learn, along with simple skills, to like the things they have to do.

At Paradise the buildings are heated—for convenience and health insurance— by gas, for fun by coal and wood burned in a little, pot-bellied stove and a wood-burning fireplace. But by far the greatest charm of the place is its out-of-doors—the flower beds whose outlining rocks are always upturned, left that way by Don and Buddy, the three-year-old bug collectors; the weed and wild-flower bed; the branch, whose clear waters are a magnet, come summer, for bare feet tired of the hot sandpile; the bird's drinking fountain; the jungle; the nearby park to tempt young explorers.

Pets

There are a thousand and one exciting adventures waiting at Paradise when the time comes to leave the schoolhouse. There are, for instance, the pets. Some of the animals live in cages. But Miss Sadie thinks a kitten on the shoulder is worth two anythings in a cage, so most of the creatures are free to roam around at will.

Princess, the strong, gentle Shetland pony probably leads all the rest of the pets in the affections of the youngsters. A local blacksmith made a small wagon for Princess and almost any day is a good time for a ride—with at least two of the youngest on the pony's back if the weather is fine.

The cart, on rainy days, sprouts an awning and becomes a covered wagon to take the children from the schoolhouse to Paradise. And on highdays and holidays Princess and the wagon are decorated from fetlock to back gate with crepe paper and flowers and field grasses.

Of course there's a dog—Cicero—constant companion to his thirty small human friends. Sometimes there are many puppies. And there are always kittens of assorted sizes and sexes. The park provides ducks and geese to be watched, and the rabbits in the cages may be taken out and petted, but not too much. One day a mule came to visit and spent the day to the delight of the whole community.

Goats, from Miss Sadie's point of view, are almost too much trouble, but the children love them. So, Miss Sadie has worked out a compromise. In the warm months there are always baby goats-at least one-on hand. When they grow to goat's estate and their buttin' blood awakes from the quiet of immaturity, they go. Currently there are two young goats, Sweet William and Billy Boy. Each gets a bottle of milk each morning and no telling how many bottles of water. At noon they look and feel like balloons. The children take turns (as they do with all activities) with the feeding and watering. Even the littlest youngsters can fill up the bottle, but they do have trouble with the nipple and this gives rise to the frequent cry, "Button the nipple on, Miss Sadie."

On one occasion Sweet William broke a leg. Miss Sadie and the children set it and put it in a plaster cast. Said Judy, with a noble unconcern for adult opinion on goats, "It looks like a birthday cake!"

Perhaps Ronnie made the classic remark about the animals. One day he threw his arms around Miss Sadie in a huge hug and said, "Miss Sadie, I loves you because you has ponies!" Then, as an afterthought, he added, "I loves you because you has goats, too."

Infinite Variety

Although the animals are an endless source of pleasure, Paradise offers other fascinations. The youngsters are great gardeners. They have their own vegetable gardens and their own garden song:

Plant the seeds now just so, now just so, now just so We're helping God make flowers grow, flowers grow.

They play endlessly with puppetoys, an invention of Miss Sadie's. Puppetoys come in families and double (as the name implies) as puppets to act out a story or a play in the schoolroom and as dolls which may be freely used in the sandpile

or under the great oaks. Puppetoys have their clothes painted on (or made of crepe paper and pasted over the painted ones for variety) and so can be easily and quickly restored no matter how dirty.

And there are picnics. The children help Miss Sadie and Emmaline get the food ready and choose the picnic place. Sometimes it's the barbecue pits. Sometimes it's the Cowboy Hideout across the road in the bushes under the oaks. When the Hideout is chosen, the Cowboys decorate it—with cowboy hats and perhaps a blue handkerchief and a red, white and blue sweater borrowed from one of the girls.

Hallowe'en is a very special occasion. Thirty youngsters climb into Leonard's truck (specially decorated for the day) and go to town in costume to make a parade. At other times the children take the bus with Miss Sadie or Emmaline and ride into the mysterious world beyond Paradise. Miss Sadie says there's never any trouble because all the other passengers and the bus drivers are interested and anxious to help.

Rules and Regulations

A visitor to Paradise once said, aghast, "All those children and no fence around them!" There are no fences because the youngsters don't need them. "We have," says Miss Sadie, "rules and boundary lines and sense enough to know that the youngest members can't be expected to keep them and must be watched." All the children, two-year-olds to six-year-olds, are drilled to the saturation point in the eight fundamental Outdoor Safety Rules which read:

Stay with the crowd unless you get special permission to go and play somewhere else

Always answer when called

Get in the pony cart from the back or the front, never over the wheel

Stay away from swings in use

Don't hold or push on the sliding board

Look over the bridge only when a grown person is

Stay away from the branch except in summer (But when the branch is swollen with rain, padlocks rather than honor are relied upon!)

Don't PET ANY COWS!

There have been few accidents other than bumped noses and skinned knees, and none of them have been serious.

Miss Sadie wonders sometimes about the proper name for her venture. It is not a kindergarten nor yet a playground—nor is it, in the strictest meaning of the word, a playschool. Perhaps the best thing, Miss Sadie, is to forget the technicalities and just keep on calling it "Paradise."



Courtesy Plymouth Recreation Department

To Shoot With Safety

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By VIRGIL C. KNOWLES Director of Recreation Plymouth, Michigan

The search for something new and different, for something which will appeal to the youngsters of the city and to the adults, is one of the main jobs of any recreation director. He wants to find new avenues of expression for those who attend his playgrounds and recreation centers. If it is possible, he plans to include in the program constructive training so that a double purpose of fun and re-creation may be accomplished.

With such a thought in mind the program herein discussed was developed. It is not, perhaps, new. But we believe that the thought behind it, the work and preparation that went into it and the purposes and methods of conducting the event plus its anticipated use in the future, will make for something new. It is definitely a live activity and there is a real need for it, not only as a means of satisfying the participants, but also from the standpoints of safety and education. Although we did not use lethal weapons the Recreation Department of Plymouth, Michigan, presented on the playground, as a playground activity in 1945, regular range practice and shooting.

In thinking about the 1945 summer playground season the director wanted to plan a program to

appeal to participants and spectators alike, a program that would give both groups definite satisfaction. During a meeting of the recreation commission someone suggested an air rifle contest. (Because Plymouth is the home of the Daisy Air Rifle there is, perhaps, more consciousness of these "weapons"—but no more rifles per capita—than elsewhere.) This suggestion fell into line with the director's thinking on the basic need for recreation to satisfy a human need, so he gave it more than passing consideration.

Program Values

From the participant's standpoint this seemed a genuine avenue for personal satisfaction. Later it was also found to be a satisfaction to the parents because of their children's achievement. From such a contest there would come, too, fellowship with other boys as is the case in any group activity.

Such an activity appealed to the sense of adventure, for in imagination Bill could visualize himself in the woods after game with a real gun. While he was actually shooting at a small target and getting lessons in safety, he would be, in fancy, out in the open stalking deer.

We knew that all the boys who took part couldn't be winners, but each one could have the desire to win and an equal chance to satisfy that desire. In such a contest neither size nor age were deciding factors. Each boy would know that, with practice, with the use of his eyes for aiming and his mind for correcting aim he had as much chance as the other fellow.

The boys would learn about service to their city, about preservation of property and life. They would learn what to shoot at. They would eliminate the accident factor from shooting.

So the project was set up.

A careful check showed that the usual age of air rifle purchasers was 11 to 16. Therefore it was decided to divide the shoot into two groups, boys 13 through 16 and those 12 and under. The latter group caught the youngsters in the "Big Injun" stage of self-assertion when the child revolts from make-believe and longs for something real, the age of investigation, of mischief, of skepticism—and therefore of learning, of the critical, clear intelligence demanding proofs; the age of "self-measurement against others and against the world." For the older group the contest appealed to the specialization instinct.

Eighty-one boys—more than 12 percent of all boys between 7 and 15 enrolled in the schools—entered the contest. The two youngest were seven, the two oldest 15. The average age was 11. Parent

interest was high and many dads were present at shoots.

The police department smiled on the contest for its members had the same interest as the parents. The main reason for this interest was safety. We taught the boys how to shoot, what to shoot at, and how to handle a gun. Adults knew that one of the best ways for boys to learn good shooting practices was by group instruction and competition. Safety and discipline were necessary for the future well being of their children.

From some old National Rifle Association figures it was found that in 1943 2,200 people were killed with firearms in and around their homes and places of business. Another 2,300 were killed in the field that year. The figure for field accidents reached such proportions in 1945 that it became alarming and much emphasis was placed upon safety by the various states of the nation in which hunting is a major sport. Another fact from the 1943 National Rifle Association figures which impressed the director was that there were no men, women or children trained by the National Rifle Association in the list of 4,500 deaths caused by carelessness. In some 150,000 cases of people under 18 years of age trained by the association in 1943 there was not an accident of any kind. This emphasized the fact that safety is in training; in knowledge of how to handle a weapon; in knowing how, where and when to shoot. We wanted to supplement National Rifle Association training, perhaps to start with younger boys and reach many who were not so trained because of age or because of parental objections to lethal weapons.

Mechanics

We chose the air rifle because it has all the appearances of a lethal weapon—it shoots hard and fairly accurately—but is not lethal. The manner of handling and shooting closely approximate a regular rifle. There is relatively little cost in running off a contest with this gun. Ammunition is very reasonable and hundreds of rounds can be fired for a small price. Because it is accurate for a short distance only, the necessity for a large range area was eliminated. Nor did we need elaborate equipment or mechanical devices. We got baled hay*, the targets, some lime for marking—and the boys were ready to go.

Ordinarily prizes of any intrinsic value are not given by the Plymouth Recreation Department, but, in this instance, an exception was made, pri-

marily to get our safety message over. The prizes were not announced until after registration. Therefore, it was proven to the department's satisfaction that the prizes were not the main attraction.

We conducted the tournament in the following order. Four days were set aside for registration. Then shoots and lectures were held each morning from 10 o'clock till noon on seven consecutive days. On the eighth day elimination shoots were held and 12 boys—six in class A (13-16), six in class B (12 and under)—were chosen as finalists. On the following day these 12 met for the final shoot-off. They were given an hour's practice session, a break of approximately 15 minutes, and then shot for first, second and third place awards.

Approximately 50 shooters were present at each shoot. Distance for the shoot was 18 feet from the muzzle of the gun to the target. The targets were $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5" with a 15/16" bull's-eye. Score counting was five for the bull; next ring, four; next ring, three; next, two; and the outside, one. There was a possible perfect score of 25 for each target. Three targets constituted a shoot in the match with a possible 75. The boys shot standing, sitting and prone with five rounds at each position.



Courtesy Plymouth Recreation Department

A bale of hay is the only backstop needed. There is no danger of going through it and at 18' anyone can hit it so there is no danger of hitting anything behind it. To hit the small bull's-eye is something else again as the writer knows. He practised along with the boys and didn't do so well as they!

The highest score made was a 64 in the qualifying round by a 13-year-old boy. He slipped on the day of the finals and shot a 57. The highest score on the day of the finals was 59 by a 13-year-old boy. In the class B shoot the highest score was a 57 by a 12-year-old. Second place was won by an 11-year-old with a score of 56. A special prize for boys nine and under was won by a nine-year-old with a score of 29, which was good shooting for a youngster.

The 18-foot distance is *not* the most accurate range for the rifle used. The most accurate *maximum* distance for this gun is set at 12 feet. We used the longer range to add interest to the contest and to allow the boys to learn to correct their pieces for accurate shooting.

Regular range rules applied, with firing by rounds under the oversight of the director who acted as instructor and range officer. We naturally chose an area which was more or less clear and apart. However, there were both a road and a path behind us. Safe walking was possible on this path at any time because the boys followed specifically the instructions of the range officer and halted instantly at the command "cease fire." The path, though little used, was in the background for the definite purpose of training the boys. We wanted them to get used to observing in front of them, to make sure of their target and to take the range officer's instructions and follow them. The director was assisted during the shoots by two playground leaders. In practice the boys shot in groups of nine on the firing line. In the elimination match they shot six at a time, and in the finals three at a time. Judges stood immediately behind the boys to determine whether or not two shots came from a gun or whether any gun had misfired.

Values

What did we accomplish? Everything we expected and more! The boys want to form a club and keep it going the year round. We have a group of boys who, young as they are, know how to handle a gun. They learned not to point a gun at anyone; never to point without expecting to shoot; to be sure of their target; not to shoot at song birds or live trees, bottles, street lights, windows or—above all—people; to treat every gun as if it were loaded ready to shoot; not to fire on the line until given the order. There were no accidents.

What do we hope to do next year? Have a bigger and better contest spread over the whole season with ranges on *each* playground and a bigger city finals shoot. Bring in the girls. They made many inquiries and requests this year. Bring in the fathers to shoot with and against the boys, though not in competition or championships. We expect to have regular rifle range practice in our program with regular weapons but we are going to continue to pre-train our youngsters with air rifles so they will be range and weapon wise when they do start their rifle shoots.

No, we do not necessarily want to raise a bunch of shooters, but we do believe that youngsters should be aware of the dangers of a gun and know how to handle it to eliminate these dangers—not only at the time of their youth, but throughout adult life.

Kids Form PAC, Score Victory

BUTLER, PA., (UP)—The kids of Butler have their own political action committee, and an effective one, too.

On election day, scrawled signs were found tacked to trees and fences near the polls. They read: "Us kids can't vote for the swimming pool. So we ask you to vote for us. (signed) The Kids of Butler."

Butler citizens answered the plea, passing a bond issue authorizing the building of the swimming pool.—New Orleans, La., *Item*.

Day Camps in St. Louis

Diary

By LUCILE SMITH FRIEDLI Director, Girl Scout Day Camps St. Louis, Missouri

arrowheads (our camp emblem). I wonder—do all camps have so many disappointments? Our bright spot of the day was \$8.50

collected for the cow."

"JUNE 18, 1946—First day of a day camp. Camp was planned for 135 campers.

We thought it might possibly grow to 160. We actually had 201 campers. If we had had tails, we would have been swinging from the trees. I came home hot and tired. Was I glad to see the bath tub! My feet hurt clear up to my hips and I wondered how I did ever get mixed up in this anyway."

"JUNE 20—Second day. Cloudy day but spirits were high again. Two more registrations came in. Where, oh where, should the registration deadline be? Things seem to be going smoothly however. If I can only keep my unit leaders happy, I'll be okeh."

"JUNE 27—Fourth day. We wanted head bands with feathers—no feathers—so we had to make

"July 2—Fifth day. A beautiful day! First pop out of the box, a unit leader had an accident in her family and will be out of camp from now on. Practically wore a path back and forth to her group to be sure everything went okeh—which it did. The day ran so smoothly we just knew something would happen. It did. I lost the keys to the supply shed. We hunted high and low and finally pried the whole lock off the shed. While we were putting the supplies away the keys were found. Ten more gray hairs!"

"July 9—Seventh day. Cook out day. I awoke at 5:00 A.M. to hear it raining. I could just see my staff and me sitting in the park with all those bot-



Courtesy St. Louis City and County Girl Scout Council

tles of milk and those muffins that had been ordered for dessert. However, the weather straightened out. Our cook out, through the cooperation of everyone, turned out grand. We had some visitors—which gave us a chance to show off."

"JULY II—Last day. All hustle and bustle, with costumes and all. A very nice program put on by the six units and a job well done by unit leaders and all helpers. I went home happy that everything went so well and sorry it is all over. If our day camp was a good one, it was because I had the cooperation of everyone, including my husband who was my unseen assistant."

The Camps

These quotations were gleaned from the diary of a director in one of the day camps operated in the summer of 1946 by the Girl Scout Council of Greater St. Louis. There were 22 other camps with equally interesting and human stories of day by day experiences.

There are many ways of setting up a day camp program. The Girl Scout Day Camp Committee plans a series of camps on sites scattered throughout the city and county. The season starts the first week in June and closes late in August. Most of the camps operate two days a week for four weeks. A few offer only six days and a few 10 days. It is possible for a girl to have four days a week of day camping for eight weeks simply by registering with four different camps. Last summer we totalled 200 days of camping and gave to 2,700 children a week of camp program.

The one certain thing about day camping is its uncertainty. Anyone who has to have things cut and dried should not attempt this program. The director of the diary was concerned about the numbers registering. Her camp was divided into two large groups with an assistant director working with each group. We attempt to limit the camps to 125 campers, but like the growth of children in a family, growth in day camping is not consistent. Each day camp must be in operation for at least four days to be included as a day camp and it must include in its registration the same group of campers and staff.

In addition to registration problems, the director is concerned with the happiness of her staff, which is a volunteer group; a budget; community relations; publicity; records; safety and health of the camp; and the actual activities of the program as they relate to campers and staff. We say that program is everything that happens to Susie from the



Courtesy St. Louis City and County Girl Scout Council

time she packs her lunch at home in the morning until she returns to her doorstep in the evening.

People ask for examples of a day's program. How can you plan a set program for 23 different day camps on different sites and serving different people? Each day camp is divided into units, varying in numbers depending upon the registration, and each unit is different from every other unit.

Last summer I "traveled" all over the world. In one day camp, I visited Hawaii, Holland, China and Italy. "China" had an interesting experience. The girls found a family of flickers living upstairs. They watched quietly while the parent birds fed the baby birds. The girls learned games and songs. They brought eggs to cook at one meeting.

"Holland" became interested in drawing, singing and playing games. These girls decided to make their own cooking utensils out of No. 10 tin cans.

Incidentally, the boys' unit was a very busy place. These youngsters made themselves a swinging table which they put up each and every camp day.

Equipment

Skills in camperaft are learned. As one little girl said, "Today we put up the sink." It was a No. 10 tin can. You do not need a lot of equipment at day camp. You do need a heap of imagination. At no cost, and certainly no effort, a world of



Courtesy St. Louis City and County Girl Scout Council

materials lies at your feet and over your head. For instance, beautiful tall oak trees where one could see many different birds, and sink holes where tadpoles were found were a great delight to the children.

One group found and used for modeling a streak of white clay in the bank of the stream. Even the Brownies enjoyed digging it and carrying it back to their unit for working into glorified mud pies. The oldest girls used it to help build their pioneering village. The woods provided material for lashed tables, pioneer cooking equipment, and primitive looms. The little brook was a source of material for the freshwater life and searching for tadpoles, little frogs and anything to be caught in a homemade net was a good excuse to wade under tall trees, through splashes of sun, crossing rocky places, with bird songs, blue skies and a sense of wild wood all about.

Program

Because our neighbors no longer live just across the street, because we also have neighbors across the ocean, we gave the children an opportunity to get their teeth in an experience of international friendship. We started out to buy one heifer to be sent overseas and ended up with money for two.

We took the pattern of living of the pioneer exploring a new land and turned it into program for day camps, not to explore new lands, although you may explore the site, but to explore the great area of human relations. Program is this business of getting on together, of helping each other, sharing responsibilities, making decisions and carrying them out, giving an opportunity to campers to try out things, make mistakes and try again. Each camp has a Junior Camp Council made up of girls and the director and a staff representative. From each camp there is a representative to a city-wide Junior Camp Council. These girls are an intercultural group of all ages, headed by their chairman.

Leadership and Training

All of these fine things are enjoyed by the girls of this community—Scouts and non-Scouts—be-

cause a group of women and Senior Girl Scouts give their enthusiastic leadership to the Girl Scout Day Camp program. There were 400 women who served in this capacity including the directors, the four specialists and the members of the very active day camp committee. Last year 227 women attended our spring day camp course. Each director meets with her staff to learn and plan meetings. At the camp sites, units for nursery children and boys are provided so that the mothers can serve as staff members.

Four thousand, five hundred and forty-seven hours of training were given in the training course. The philosophy back of the course is that a leader cannot have a happy experience with the campers unless she is familiar with the skill or crafts. The course offers a combination of theory and practice. It includes sessions on leadership; organization; special sessions for directors; sessions for staff members; workshop on crafts, camperafts, singing, dancing, art, storytelling, dramatics; sessions at day camp sites where actual experience is given in setting up units, building fires, cooking, nature trails and nature projects, cleaning up camp and closing.

The day camp adult leaders all agree that the training we offer to the Senior Girl Scouts-older high school girls—is one of the highlights of the program. The group, composed of about 150 girls is inter-cultural. The girls are interested now in camping, in leadership, in service. They are also interested in this phase of recreation from the standpoint of a vocation later on. The year's training starts out with a week-end workshop held at Sherwood Forest Camp, Troy, Mo. Each girl has 64 hours of theory and skill. The girls at this workshop have an opportunity to set up the work and carry out the plans. A group of specialists in leadership and program skills serve as consultants and leaders of groups. In addition, each month a "huddle" on some topic pertaining to the day camp program is scheduled. In this way it is possible to acquire 20 more hours of training. In May, job assignments are made in consultation with both the girls and the directors. During the summer the girls and the directors are interviewed frequently and at the end of the season both groups evaluate their experiences. These are future leaders getting training and work experience which should prove valuable to the community. Needless to say, this program cannot take place without the support of the Girl Scout organization and the cooperation of community groups. Our day camp program enjoys the full cooperation of the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation of St. Louis and his staff of department heads, superintendents of the various parks, and the men who work in the parks. In training, we have the help of the park and playground association, the people's art center, the public library, the faculty members of Washington University and the St. Louis public schools, and the naturalists of Rockwoods Reservation, Missouri and Pere Marquette State Park, Illinois. There are other community groups that lend support to the Girl Scout Day Camp program.

For 1947, a \$2 fee is to be charged for each camper for an eight day period. The budget we take in our stride. A small sum of money is allocated for a large venture. As yet society does not see the value of this type of program in dollars and cents. The cost to the community last summer was 17 cents per person. The total budget was \$5,000 in round figures. For 3,000 persons, campers and staff, that means an expenditure of about \$1.66 per person. Each camper paid \$1.50 for eight days.

Publicity — newspaper, neighborhood and city, radio programs, talks to parents and church groups, lectures at the universities—is part of the year-round program. In every community there is a gold mine—lay leadership. Each adult has a gift to give and it's the job of the leader to help an adult to develop his gift. Then let the leader find for him a place in the community where the adult may have a satisfying experience. And that is real adventure!

Department of Misinformation

PARDON US while we take time out for a spot of plain and fancy blushing. Glad as we (and presumably Providence, Rhode Island) would be to verify passage of the \$100,000,000 bond issue for recreation reported in the March issue of Recreation, we must confess that somebody picked up a couple of extra zeros somewhere along the line. The issue voted was \$1,000,000—and since, as the saying goes, "that ain't hay" congratulations to Providence are still in order.

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Detroit's Day Camp

DETROIT'S FIRST day camp season, sponsored by the City of Detroit, Department of Parks and Recreation drew to a close on August 30, 1946. It was a dream come true for a big-city child.

The Department wanted to reach those areas where few, if any, recreation facilities were available. So a few months before the opening of the camp season in early July, the director got in contact with community leaders and school principals in the congested areas of Detroit about plans for a day camp.

Together these leaders worked out a system whereby the schools in these areas received a quota of registration forms containing complete information regarding the new program. The principal of each school distributed these forms to teachers who in turn selected the most financially needy children to go to camp.

As the completed registration forms were sent to the department of parks and recreation, a duplicate card was sent to each child concerned. One section of the card contained complete information as to time, date and place of meeting for each camp day. The other section was to be returned to the department with the notation that the child would attend camp on the days appointed. Each child could go to camp one day a week for a period of eight weeks—eight times in all.

Health Examination

Before the season opened on July 8, all children were given an opportunity to take a physical examination free of charge from the city physician provided for the day camp. In many cases, however, a family physician gave the examination, and the report of such an examination was noted on the registration form given each child.

Size and Age of Group

Because of limited facilities and funds only children from 9 through 12 years of age were eligible the first year. Facilities were available to accommodate a maximum of 100 boys and 100 girls for this first season and, in spite of the polio epidemic in August, the attendance remained well over 100 daily. If attendance fell, as it did somewhat in August, the children were permitted to bring a friend the following week. During the season,

By JIM SCHULTHEIS

Day Camp Director

Department of Parks and Recreation

2,100 Detroit children participated in the day camp.

Transportation

Chartered coaches (50 children to each bus) picked up the group each day at 9 A.M. from predesignated schools in the congested areas. Where possible, each child brought 20 cents weekly to help defray the cost of transportation. One day a week the coaches stopped at one of Detroit's largest orphanages and took these youngsters to the campsite. The trip lasted from 30 to 50 minutes, but the children were happily singing the entire distance under the leadership of a department play leader.

Campsite

The camp is located about 15 miles from the heart of Detroit. During the war years it had been used as an Army post. The wooden barracks and administration buildings made an ideal shelter for indoor activity during inclement weather. These



Courtesy Detroit Parks and Recreation Department

buildings can be utilized, too, on a year-around project. Only about five of the dozen or so buildings were used the first season. One building, facing a large cleared, grassy field became the main administration headquarters for the campers and supervisors. Another of equal size (most of them are about 20' x 80' or 20' x 100') made a splendid arts and crafts building.

Leadership

The camp was carried on by one director, four playleaders, and ten volunteer, full-time counselors. A period of instruction before the opening of the camping season was conducted for all counselors by the director, who has only the highest praise for the men and women volunteers who devoted their full time and energies to making the camp the success it has proved to be.

Program

When they arrived at the park at 9:30 A.M., all campers assembled around the flag pole in the play area for the flag raising ceremony. This was usually followed by a patriotic song. While still assembled, the director made such announcements as were necessary—coming events, safety rules to be followed and the day's program.

After storing excess clothing and lunches, the group split up into small groups under the leader-ship of capable counselors and started on a leisurely hike through the woods and trails of the park. During the hike, the counselors identified trees, brooks and shrubs for the children, pointing out harmful poison ivy, poison oak, berries, and the like. The destination for the hikers was usually one of the wading pools located about the park. Here the children frolicked until a keen appetite demanded a return to camp.

Back at camp once more, the youngsters cleaned up for lunch and each child received a cold bottle of milk—donated by the Detroit Friendship Club—and occasionally an ice cream bar. The children brought their own lunches of sandwiches and fruit. On several occasions when nature lore was being taught, a fire was built and roasted marshmallows, hot dogs and similar delicacies were added to make up the meal for the day. The half hour lunch period gave the counselors an opportunity to discuss together the morning's happenings and the afternoon's plans.

Storytelling came next on the daily program and in this activity the children developed a keen interest. Paul Bunyan tales and folklore were well received.

The remainder of the afternoon was given over to the campers' choice of many activities including



Courtesy Detroit Parks and Recreation Department

arts and crafts (clay modeling, woodcraft, leathercraft and papercraft predominating), nature craft, music appreciation, group singing, fishing parties, dramatics, outdoor games and sports and safety movies. Each week the program varied so that there was little repetition of activities.

During the eight-week period, a week at the zoo, a week of fishing, talent week and a special parents' week were included.

We had three rainy days. Then the campers went into the largest recreation room and took part in indoor games, songfests, movies and arts and crafts.

Medical Care

The camp boasted a fine up-to-date first aid room with complete equipment for taking care of minor injuries by well-trained, first aid counselors. A city doctor and nurse were available at all times. Only three minor accidents occurred while camp was held. It is felt that the safety features inaugurated daily throughout the season were largely responsible for this splendid record.

From the director's viewpoint, the camp season appeared to be tremendously successful in spite of the small drop in attendance during the last two weeks of August when Detroit was besieged with a polio epidemic. The children had the time of their lives and in many cases it was known that some children experienced activity in the woods for the first time.

It was a great pleasure and satisfaction to direct the functioning of Detroit's first day camp. In the years to come this activity will prove itself to be one of the finest and most popular undertakings ever devised and carried out by the City of Detroit, Department of Parks and Recreation.

Rec-Riesta

Summer Wind-up for a Recreation District

DLAYGROUND directors and office staff of the Hayward Area Park, Recreation and Parkway District in California

By CAROL PULCIFER Supervisor, Hayward Area Park, Recreation and Parkway District

2:00-3:00 P.M.-Games and sports Watermelon eating contest-100 participants

Boys peanut scramble Girls peanut scramble

Greased pig contest Push ball contest

Girls shoe kicking contest

3:00 - 4:30 P.M.—Championship softball game — Ashland vs. Sunset

The final result was a huge success with hundreds of children participating and over 1,000 spectators.

The program is not in itself remarkable. It is similar to other summer wind-ups and presents nothing particularly original as to program. The interesting and unusual part of the Rec-riesta was the overcoming of the problems and obstacles peculiar to the district situation.

From the supervisor's point of view, the first problem was stimulating the enthusiasm of the leaders. Before the first meeting of directors was called, a great many casual conferences were held with all the playground directors. Summer windups were explained. Experienced personnel responded with understanding and enthusiasm, but the less experienced directors - some of them housewives, some of them high school seniors didn't quite grasp the total picture. The supervisor need not have worried - when the whole event was made the responsibility of the central committee, enthusiasm reached a high point and original ideas were plentiful. The name, Recriesta, was coined and the supervisor's problems became those of guidance rather than stimulation and promotion. The directors carried these ideas and the enthusiasm back to their own grounds and, in turn, received a double dose of ideas and enthusiasm from the children - but not without a great deal of promotion and leadership.

children and the playground directors were determined to have a summer wind-up for the entire recreation district - so they planned the Rec-Early in the summer a committee of playground

were determined to have a summer wind-up in the

style of the best established recreation departments.

Nothing that was worthwhile for the children in

other communities was going to be denied the chil-

dren in their area. True, this was a recreation

district and not a municipal department. True,

this was the very first summer program attempted.

True, the district was young, lacked experienced

personnel, and covered a widely scattered area of

rural communities, housing projects, unincorpor-

ated towns and an incorporated town. But the

directors met to lay the initial plans. The guiding principles decided upon were: the Rec-riesta program should be based on the children's interests and on the summer activities and it should be the climax of the summer program for the entire area.

The final plan evolved from these principles resulted in the following program of events which was presented on Friday, August 23, 1946 at Memorial Park in Hayward.

10:00 A.M.-Playground orchestra selections

10:15 A.M.-Play-The Maid Was in the Garden San Lorenzo Village Playground

10:30 A.M.-Play and pageant-The Prince Who Could Not Dance

Ashland Playground Burbank Playground Markham Playground Tennyson Playground Castro Valley Playground John Muir Playground Russell City Playground Sunset Playground

12:00 Noon-Picnic lunch

12:30-2:00 р.м.—Concessions, exhibits, and amateur hour (Each playground planned and ran a concession and contributed to the arts and crafts exhibit. The day camp and the teen-age centers also contributed to the exhibit.)

Telling the People

Promotion and publicity were particularly difficult because of the heterogeneous nature of the communities being served, the size of the district (154 square miles), and the lack of any community feeling for the "area." Local events were easy to promote, but area-wide events did not call forth the same personal interest and pride.

Working on the basis that the final attendance at the Rec-riesta would probably be proportional to the number of actual participants in the program, the playground directors made every effort to enlist the children's interest in being on the concession committee, helping with plans, and being in the pageant. The latter event was probably the biggest single factor in making the children and the local communities aware that they were part of a larger area and a bigger program. One of the directors talented in teaching folk dancing was scheduled to visit eight playgrounds to develop folk dance groups to be used in the pageant. Inasmuch as the director had no car, the final working out of the schedule was a masterpiece of coordination in which all the cars in the department were probably used at some place along the way. Many playgrounds had no indoor facilities and the folk dances were taught to the music of a portable phonograph on a shadeless gravel play area. Costumes for the pageant were provided by the district costume room, which also had its difficulties because of the scarcity of materials.

The usual methods of publicity were used—posters, pictures, newspaper articles, public address system, speeches to local groups, special invitations—but the participation and efforts of the children themselves, in the final analysis, was the real selling-point for the Rec-riesta.

The choice of a place to have the Rec-riesta was fortunate. The only municipal park in the whole area, which happened to be also the location of the only swimming pool in the whole area, was chosen. Unlike the average playground, this location offered a fine picnic area with an ideal setting for an outdoor theater, a playfield for the concessions and sports events, a Boy Scout cabin for a pageant dressing room, and a parking area.

Organization

The organization presented no great problems except that of the bigness of the districts. Frequent meetings were not feasible, but a clear delineation of responsibilities through office bulletins made



Courtesy Hayward Area Park District

complete decentralization of most major operations possible and every director came through. A final rehearsal preceded by a final meeting of the whole department cleared up most of the problems for both directors and children.

Transportation, we thought, presented a real problem because some of the communities were so isolated that some children would have to walk two or three miles to the nearest public conveyance. (This situation exists because the rapid growth of the entire area has left housing, transportation, and nearly all public utilities with their slower rate of development far behind.) An elaborate scheme was worked out whereby school buses were used to serve all areas not served by public transportation. Although many children took advantage of this, the surprising fact was that so

many found their own means of getting to the Recriesta. This gave the office staff to wonder if isolation, after all, wasn't more of a mental than a physical problem since means of getting in to town seemed to be quite available when sufficient reason for coming was stimulated in the individual.

Expense for the first Rec-riesta was not a primary concern. As an initial summer wind-up of the district, it was not supposed to be self-supporting. Tickets were used, but they were free and served as a means of publicity and control rather than a means of financing. The only charge was for transportation.

The Rec-riesta was proof positive that a successful summer wind-up is possible for a recreation district.

Corinne Fonde

By MARGUERITE TURNER Houston, Texas

CORINNE FONDE, 'modern crusader for recreation for all the people, resigned her post as Assistant Director of the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Houston on July 1, 1946, after 27 years of uphill pioneering in municipal recreation.

"A task well done," said the voice of a grateful people, and the people were right for Miss Fonde's story is the story of community recreation in Houston. But to Corinne Fonde the task will never be complete until every child has an opportunity for wholesome recreation—until every adult may re-create himself by a full expression of his leisure time interests.

Through 24 years as superintendent, Miss Fonde guided the growth of the Houston Recreation Department. She improvised equipment, she drafted volunteers and she juggled a scrawny budget to keep the enterprise afloat. There never was enough of anything to meet the ever louder demands from a city that doubled its population in every decade.



Corinne Fonde

Miss Fonde came to Houston in June 1916 to supervise the work of the Houston Settlement Association of the Houston Social Service Bureau. Her headquarters were at Rusk Settlement in a squalid neighborhood of 23 nationalities. Her early training and experience served her well in the multiple duties she found there. She began her career as a kindergarten teacher, first in the public schools of her home city, Mobile, Alabama, and later as an instructor in the Sophie Newcomb College kindergarten training school in New Orleans.

She was a disciple of Eleanor McMain of Kingsley House Social Settlement, New Orleans, where she was a resident and volunteer worker for eight years. She supplemented her work with studies related to play in education at the Universities of Chicago and Tennessee, and for four summer sessions taught kindergarten methods and play in education at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. For one year she was assistant director of Kingsley House summer camp on the Gulf coast. She spent one year at Lane Cotton Mills and one at MacGinnis Cotton Mills, New Orleans, as director of employee welfare and recreation.

Beginnings

The activities which were carried on at the settlement house under Miss Fonde's leadership paved the way for the formation in 1919 of the Recreation Bureau of the Houston Foundation. In February of that year, Miss Fonde was given sole charge of the bureau office. The equipment was scant. Money for operating was limited—the first year's budget amounting to less than \$2,500. Funds were raised through personal gifts, tag days, benefit ball games and numerous such activities.

But the need for a public recreation department was city-wide. People were eager for the many things that could be done through recreation work, they had confidence in Miss Fonde's ability and vision, and they threw their support behind the movement wholeheartedly. Civic groups, and Parent-Teacher Associations lent their help. Teachers in the public schools gave their cooperation.

Play days and play weeks were organized by Miss Fonde, who had the ability to get other people interested in doing things and the driving force needed to coordinate their efforts into successful undertakings.

Five summer playgrounds were operated by the infant department. One of the first projects of the new department was to conduct an investigation of the local dance hall situation. A report was submitted to the City Council which soon thereafter amended its dance hall ordinance to require that minors at public dances be accompanied by parent or guardian.

Somehow Miss Fonde retained her high ideal-

ism and with remarkable resiliency was able to turn temporary defeat into successful progress. She fought always for the principle that municipal recreation should not be limited by age, sex, race, creed, locality or condition, or special interest. She believed that the entire community of people, the free hours of all the people, and all the interests of the people that may be expressed during leisure is the legitimate field of the recreation department. Her program was always based on the premise that the recreation department is an integral part of the municipal government, it belongs to all the people and is designed for their service.

Miss Fonde was director for many years of the annual school conducted under the auspices of the Houston Recreation Institute Association. In 1927 she was appointed one of seven recreation superintendents in the nation who constituted an advisory committee to study health and juvenile delinquency.

She is a member of the National Recreation Association, the Society of Recreation Workers of America, and a member and past president of the Texas Recreation Association. She served for many years as a member of the executive committee of the group work section of the Houston Council of Social Agencies.

"Recreation, properly supervised, is the natural preventive of crime," Miss Fonde said in an early interview. "Health, moral and physical, cannot fail to result from the wholesome activity of a creative recreational program."

Setbacks and Progress

In 1921 the Recreation Bureau was merged with Houston's Community Service, and the City Council passed an ordinance creating it a full department of the city government. Two years later the department was made a Community Chest agency as well. It was not until 1937 that the department relinquished Chest support and assumed its place as a department of the city government, fully though not adequately supported by tax funds.

Depression days brought a setback to the then flourishing department. In 1930, it had attained its peak financially with a budget of \$42,321.15 augmented by \$12,966.68 from the Community Chest. Two years later, the depression having made itself felt in Houston, the budget was cut to \$16,000—\$10,000 from the city and \$6,000 from the Chest.

Miss Fonde's heart shed tears as she necessarily cut the program to fit the budget. Many of her loyal staff members, either without pay or much reduced salaries, manned the centers and play-

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grounds to salvage the program until the budget could be restored.

In reviewing the work of the department on its twentieth anniversary, Miss Fonde generously attributed the things that had been accomplished to the loyalty of friends. "There have been times when the department was like a very sick child," she said. "There have been days when we thought all our work was going for naught. But our friends stood by us. They are our greatest asset. Now the cause of public recreation in Houston is safe."

The 27 year old traditional Tree of Light ceremony was given to Houstonians by Corinne Fonde, who first introduced the idea in Rusk Settlement and later made it an annual city-wide event. There have been annual kite tournaments in Houston since 1919—each one attended by this energetic department head. Her department directed the organization of the local Central Girl Scout Council of which a member of the Recreation Board became the first Commissioner. There have been playground tours conducted to better acquaint interested citizens with the activities, and countless numbers of visitors and department friends have enjoyed playground tours and special events as the personal guests of Miss Fonde. She never spared herself at the expense of public recreation, even though it meant that grinding, busy days in the office were followed by equally busy evenings, and often week-ends, on the playgrounds. Just seeing the joyful happiness her program was giving to others seemed to renew and strengthen Miss Fonde's unselfish desire to provide the highest possible type of recreation program.

In 1943 the City of Houston adopted a new charter which called for the consolidation of the Park and Recreation departments. Miss Fonde was named assistant director of the enlarged depart-

At the time of her resignation in 1946, the recreation division was operating 21 year-round white playgrounds and centers, and six Negro centers, in addition to 12 championship tennis courts, three swimming pools, three golf courses and four lighted softball fields. City-wide activities of the department in 1946 also included junior and senior community chorus groups, junior and senior civic theater groups, and a centrally located teen-age canteen.

This report speaks for the progress made since 1927 when Miss Fonde and her staff launched a campaign for the following equipment: lights for courts in all the playgrounds in order that they may be used at night; a civic theater and workship; a centrally located athletic field; at least three mu-

nicipal swimming pools, and buildings for the year-round operation of a number of the playgrounds. For the most part, these objectives have been accomplished, the land having been acquired only last year for the athletic field. Renovation of an abandoned incinerator provided an attractive civic theater on the banks of Buffalo Bayou.

Toward the Future

The loyal friends who have supported Miss Fonde in her activities through the years are members of the Houston Parks and Recreation Association, Incorporated, an organization which has at times supplied personnel and funds to demonstrate recreation activities, which, when proven, were transferred to the department budget as rapidly as it permitted. Two years ago these friends endorsed and pledged themselves to secure a \$25,000,000 improvement program for the Parks and Recreation Department for the next 10-year period.

And the citizens of Houston in July voted a major bond issue with \$4,000,000 earmarked for parks and recreation use. This was the second time in three years that the people voiced their approval at the polls of the parks and recreation program, the first bond issue having set aside \$1,800,000 for the department's post-war improvement program.

Upon her resignation the City Parks and Recreation Board adopted the following resolution:

"Inasmuch as Miss Corinne Fonde, after 27 years of devoted service as head of the Recreation Department of the City of Houston, has felt it necessary on account of ill health to resign:

"Now, therefore, be it resolved that it is the sense of the Parks and Recreation Board that the department has suffered a great and serious loss by reason of her resignation. The members of this board hereby wish to express not only for themselves but for the entire City of Houston their appreciation of Miss Fonde's untiring efforts and inspiration and planning through many difficult years when we needed her vision and courage.

"We hereby tender our undying gratitude to her for her labors and loyalty to our cause during her long tenure and trust that the leisure she has at last gained will bring her the joy and happiness which she so richly deserves because of a task well done."

Younger hands will carry on where she left off, but no one will guide the destiny of public recreation in Houston with more self-less love than the courageous little brown-eyed "mother" of it all.

Fly-Tying for Recreation

COUPLE THOUSAND years ago, some fellow fishing in the Nile River discovered that he had better success with his crude bone fishhooks if he colored them red, yellow, blue, green, with dyes, yarn, silk, or bright colored feathers. After making this important discovery, he probably scampered home and raided his wife's sewing basket for bits of silk, yarn, thread, or whatnot; pilfered the feathers off her current hat; and swiped her manicure scissors when she wasn't looking. From that day to this fishermen have been doing the same thing, and have been putting together odd assortments of colored yarns, silks, feathers and hooks in various shapes and designs for the purpose of luring the wily trout, or the lowly pan fish into the old fish-basket. As a matter of fact, a veritable craft has sprung up, with standard patterns, and standard procedures, until now there is hardly any community, large or small, in the length and breadth of our land which doesn't boast of its champion fly-tier-or organized group of fly-tiers, for they are inordinately gregarious.

A definite vocabulary has developed with the craft, and the uninitiated may have some little trouble at first with the proper terminology, until he discovers at long last that most fly-tiers are a little "tetched" and that when speaking of colors the fly-tier's "red" is really a delightful dark brown, that "dun" is a cross between green and gray and blue, and that "furnace" is not something down in the basement to keep one warm, but really a hackle of brownish tint. Likewise, a real fly-tier never speaks of the feathers of a bird, but usually confuses the amateur with such terms as hackles, capes, skins, quills, primaries, and the like.

Forewarned!

To enter the sacrosanct fraternity of fly-tiers one needs but a little instruction and an inexpensive kit of materials. It is only fair, however, to warn the reader right now that the author assumes no responsibility from here on in for what might happen to those taking up the craft as a hobby or for light recreation, especially to those who actually use the results of their labors on stream or pond or lake! Wives have been known to up and leave well-meaning husbands for littering up the kitchen floor and table with bits of hair and feathers. Children slyly tell the neighbors that Daddy has been

By WALTER S. NICHOLS
Director, Wisconsin Avenue Social Center
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

looking at the chickens with a speculative eye turned to the value of the shoulder hackles thereon. Friends do not call at our house anymore for fear of a diatribe on the relative merits of the Royal Coachman as against the Grizzly King fished wet on a dark day.

Compared to other types of recreation, golf for example, fly-tying has its merits. First, it is usually done at home and doesn't require the upkeep on 40 to 60 acres of land. Second, it can usually be indulged in at a moment's notice, down in the basement where one can litter up the floor to his heart's content. Third, it is relatively inexpensive, with no lavish outlay of cash for tools, or other materials. Fourth, it is an acquisitive hobby providing the rider with tangible finished products which he can put to use himself or give away to unsuspecting fishermen friends. Fifth, it offers an inexhaustible field for experimentation and research. And, finally, it's like the opium habit in that the enthusiast seeks every opportunity to pass "the curse" on to others.

Age seems to make little difference in enthusiasm. The youngster of 10 or 12 seems to get just as much kick out of tying his own flies as does the grizzled fly-fisherman. During the past summer fly-tying classes were offered to children on 10 selected playgrounds in Milwaukee under the sponsorship of the Department of Recreation of the Milwaukee Public Schools. Many of these playgrounds were located in slum areas, where children seldom had an opportunity to fish. Each playground had a group of from 25 to 100 children enrolled for a series of six lessons, one each week, of two hours in length. Each lesson started with a demonstration of a basic skill, and the tying of a complete fly. At the conclusion of the series, hundreds of youngsters had received enough training in fundamentals to enable them to tie any fly desired. The culmination of the course was a series of lessons on how to use the fly under actual fishing conditions.

As a winter and spring activity for the community center it is without equal. It is a recreation

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activity in which young and old mix on an equal basis. Very little in the way of furniture is necessary, usually just any kind of a table on which a vise can be clamped. Class members provide all their own tools and materials. A good light is necessary—and if possible, droplights or desk lamps which can be adjusted to within a foot or two of the vise.

Fly-tying appeals to boys and girls, and to men and women. The girls are interested from the standpoint of the use of the finished fly for ornamental purposes on hat or coat lapel. Many exservicemen learned to tie flies while in service, and every life-raft was equipped with a fly-tying kit and directions for its use. Fly-tying soon became the number one recreation activity in occupational therapy programs in veterans' hospitals, and in keeping with the traditions of the craft, flytiers throughout the country are voluntarily giving of their time in teaching the skill to bed-ridden veterans, particularly to the victims of tuberculosis.

Procedure

To recreation directors planning to inaugurate a program of fly-tying, a word as to procedures. The first requirement is a teacher, and usually a little inquiry in any community will turn up a good one. In organizing classes, it is well to begin by a demonstration of fly-tying to a group organized for the purpose, or to any group organized for any purpose. This approach usually is more successful than to announce the organization of a fly-tying class or a fly-tying club, as it gives the prospective enrollee an idea of what it's all about before he is asked to commit himself to registration for a class or club the purpose of which might be somewhat vague to him at the moment. At the initial demonstration, a movie film on fly-fishing for trout usually provides the clincher. These films may be obtained from various sources throughout the country, some of the best coming from Field and Stream magazine. Sometimes two or three demonstrations are necessary in order to show a variety of fly patterns for trout, bass, or pan fish.

There is an erroneous idea prevalent that fly-fishing is both difficult and expensive. Neither is correct. The beginner can learn to fly-fish with greater ease and with less practice than it takes to learn bait-casting. Fly-fishing can be done with inexpensive equipment: a cane pole, a heavy chalk line, and some sort of winch or contraption to hold excess line while not in use. On our playgrounds in Milwaukee, children are taught to make complete and workable fly-fishing equipment for a

total outlay of 50 cents. As a matter of fact, one can fly-fish with good results by using a cork or hair bodied bass bug on the end of an ordinary light fish line attached to an ordinary cane pole.

To stimulate community-wide interest in the sport of fly-fishing, and fly-tying, a tie-up in Milwaukee with a local newspaper proved exceptionally helpful. An American Legion post sponsored instruction in fly-tying and fly-fishing at two nearby veterans' hospitals. This sponsorship consisted of providing transportation to and from the veterans' hospitals for the instructors, purchase of necessary tools and materials to put the program into effect quickly, and a general endorsement of the program for the veterans. To assist in the flyfishing lessons, the Milwaukee Casting Club provided top-notch talent, some with national championship ratings, to work with beginners' classes in the social center and on the playgrounds, and also to instruct ambulatory patients in the veterans' hospitals. This angle of the program culminated in tournaments during the summer months at which the winners were awarded prizes donated by the American Legion.

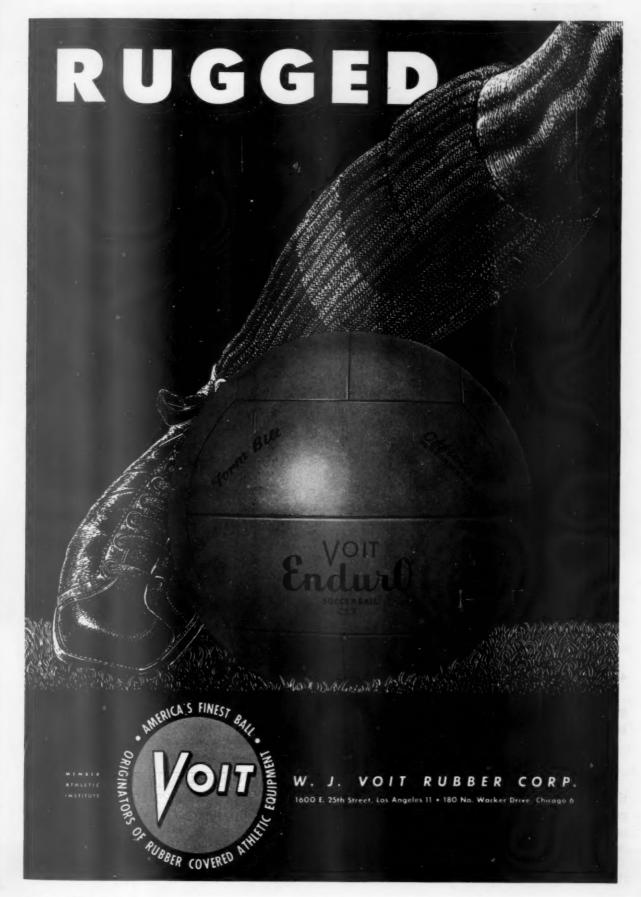
During the winter months, fly-tying classes run from about October 15 to about May 15 indoors. After May 15 all lessons, either fly-tying or fly-casting, are outdoors. Classes are divided into beginners and advanced groups. Every enrollee spends six weeks in the beginners' class before he is admitted to the advanced group. Basic skills are taught in the beginners' classes, and a new class is formed each six weeks.

As in every craft, there are certain fundamental skills which must be mastered by the beginner before he can become an expert. It is surprising how quickly these skills can be mastered by patient practice. In our social center classes during the winter months, and on our playgrounds during the summer months, the same procedure is used in the teaching process, which, for the benefit of the uninitiated is outlined below:

of materials and tools used in the craft. Difference between a wet fly (one fished below the surface) and a dry fly (one fished on the surface) in basic construction. Hook sizes and thread sizes. How to start a fly.

2nd Session: Demonstration tying of a common wet fly. How and where to obtain materials and tools.

3rd Session: Tying the streamer flies, bucktail and feather types.



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4th Session: How to tie cork bodied and hair bodied bass bugs.

5th Session: The dry fly.

6th Session: How to tie nymphs.

Materials and Tools

In gathering together a kit of materials, the flytier has unlimited opportunity to exercise his ingenuity. Much of the material used need not be purchased but can be constructed at home from odds and ends found around the house. Corks of various sizes, bits of yarn, silk, floss, chenille, thread, wax, and razor blades can be found in most

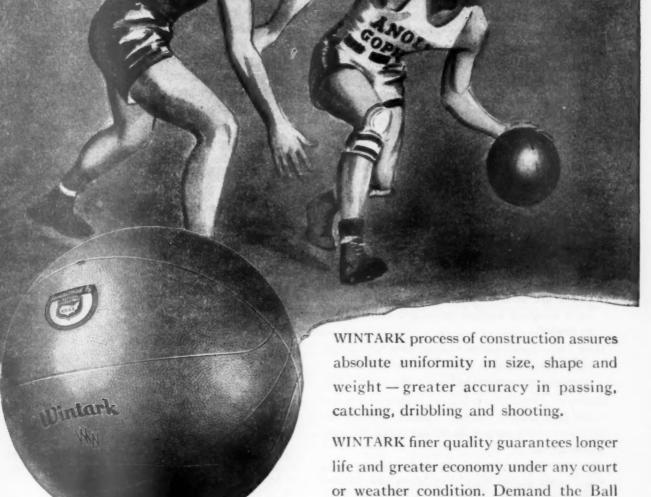
households. An awl can be made with a darning needle stuck into a cork.

Materials and tools fall into two classifications: those which are absolutely necessary, and those which are nice to have but not absolutely necessary. The list below is divided on this basis:

Absolutely Necessary:

Vises: These can be obtained from sporting goods dealers in prices from 50 cents to \$6. The cheap ones work just as well as the expensive ones. The only purpose of the vise is to hold the hook firmly while making the fly. Small bench vises on wood-working tables are very usable.





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- Hooks: A supply of hooks of various sizes ranging from size 2/0 to size 20. The beginner should obtain about a dozen each of size 2/0, 1/0, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10. Also needed are a few long shank hooks (about 2 x 0) in each of the above sizes. For general fly-tying purposes, the Turned Down Eye (TDE) hooks are the best. Do not invest over \$1 in hooks to begin with. Hooks vary in prices, but good imported or domestic hooks can be bought for about 20 cents per dozen.
- Thread: A spool or two of ordinary sewing silk, any color, size A, or size 00 will do to start.
- Wax: A small piece of wax to waterproof and preserve the silk thread.
- Body Materials: Bodies of flies are usually made of colored yarn, silk floss, chenille. Bits of these materials can be "borrowed" from mother's sewing basket, or purchased on cards for a nickel or so per color. The important colors are red, yellow, green, black, white and brown.
- Tinsel: A small card of plain silver tinsel and one of gold tinsel, for body ribbing. Cost about a nickel or dime each.
- Feathers: A small quantity of hackles (small neck and shoulder feathers) in various colors. Plymouth Rock hackles, sometimes called Gray, Barred Rock, or Grizzly, come first. Then a small quantity of black, one of brown, and one of red will do for a starter.
- Primary Feathers: One package of dyed (various colors) goose quills, red, green, yellow, orange.
- Paired Duck Feathers: A package of paired duck feathers for making wings on dry flies. Natural colors are best. If possible get both left and right wings of mallard drake and pull feathers as needed.
- Deer Tail: Small pieces of dyed deer tails in red, yellow, and natural brown and white. Also a piece of gray squirrel tail and a red squirrel tail.
- Scissors: Small sharp-pointed manicure scissors are best. Round-pointed scissors will not do. Scissors with curved blades are useful in many operations.

(Note: Some sporting goods dealers have fly-tying kits all made up with most of the above items included in the amounts needed. These kits sell for various prices ranging from \$2 to \$5. There is enough material in each kit to make hundreds of flies.)

Nice to Have But Not Absolutely Necessary:

Hooks: A supply of all sizes of hooks ranging from size 2/0 (the largest) down to size 20 (the smallest). Hump hooks in sizes 2/0, 1/0, 1, 2, 3, and 4 are also useful in making cork bodied bass bugs.

- Hackles: The best hackles are obtained from neck capes from various birds, such as the game cock, Rhode Island Red roosters, Plymouth Rock roosters, and the like. Hundreds of flies can be tied with the hackles in each such cape. The advantage in buying hackles in this way is that each one obtains all sizes needed, and they keep better. Capes sell for about \$1 and up depending on the size and quality.
- Kit Box: Keep your materials orderly. Make yourself a little box into which you can put everything you need. Such boxes can be made of scrap lumber, and need be only large enough to hold four average size cigar boxes.
- A Place to Work: Find a spot at home, preferably down in the basement, where you can work without getting your materials all over the house, and where you can leave your materials so that they will be undisturbed if you are called away. It's good to have a light close to your work. An extension cord with a droplight can usually be rigged from some nearby outlet.
- Other Materials: Lacquer in various colors for cork bodies on bass bugs. Red, yellow, and black are enough to start. Glue for cork bodied bugs. Peacock herl, Golden Pheasant tippets, Amherst Pheasant tippets are useful for bodies, spikes, and tails. Deer body hair (quite different in texture from deer tail hair) for hair bodied bass bugs in natural color, and also in dyed red and yellow. Calf tails in natural color (called impali), and also a few pieces of dyed red, black, and yellow.
- Pieces of body hair, and pieces of tail hair from such animals as the badger, polar bear, skunk, and woodchuck.

Books

All libraries have books on fly-tying and on fly-fishing. Some of the better libraries have complete shelves of all books published on the subject. For the benefit of those living in small communities where library facilities are unavailable, the following may be of assistance:

- Modern Fly Craft . . . James Hyndman. Published by Binforts & Mort Co., Portland, Oregon. Copyright 1938
- How to Tie Flies... E. C. Gregg. Published by A. S. Barnes Co., New York, N. Y. Copyright 1940.
- Fly Patterns and Their Origins . . . Harold Smedley. Published by the Westshore Press, Muskegon, Michigan. Copyright 1944.
- New Lines for Flyfishers . . . Wm. B. Sturgis. Published by Derrydale Press, New York, N. Y. Copyright 1936.
- Fur, Feathers, and Steel . . . Reuben R. Cross. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, N. Y. Copyright 1940.



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WHAT IS THE PERFECT SPORT



What sports or recreations will be most popular five, ten years from now? We don't know, but we can hazard some guesses based on what existing sports offer the participants. Aside from large-scale promotion, we think probably the perfect sport would rate high on all these features:

- 1. UNIVERSAL APPEAL We acknowledge now that playing, or engaging in any sport, is really play-fighting. Therefore the perfect sport must be deeply rooted in fight-instinct or survival-instinct.
- 2. BROAD PARTICIPATION BASE That is, not only should the sport appeal to all people, but all not specifically handicapped should be able to play.
- 3. FAIRLY EASY TO LEARN The Spanish game of Jai-Alai requires ten years' apprenticeship. It's a great game, but we question its future as a popular participation.
- 4. OUT-OF-DOORS Indoor sport is all right as a substitute, but in the last analysis an important ingredient of any wholesome recreation is fresh air.
- 5. ONE PART LUCK, THREE PARTS SKILL Sports are games, and we agree that the elements of chance and uncertainty are important. But we hold out for a valid premium on skill in the perfect sport.

Now, let's check archery against that list. Archery has many excellent features which have brought it into the very forefront of participation sports in recent years. But let us now consider only those features which refer to the five cardinal points for the theoretically perfect sport:

"Universal appeal" is the first consideration in evaluating archery. Archery is the civilized sublimation of the hunter instinct—strong in you, strong in us. Once our survival depended upon it. Today, on the archery range, it's just fun.

"Broad participation base" is the largest single factor in the tremendous

increase in archery participation. Archery is for all ages, both sexes, athletes and invalids, "joiners" and hermits. Anyone with two arms and one eye can become a quite respectable archer.

"Eusy-to-learn" might count against archery if you compare it with Chinese checkers, but compared with other sports in which proficiency is developed through thoughtful practice, archery ranks right at the top. Archery will repay the serious student, but anyone can have fun with a bow after twenty minutes on the range.

"Out-of-doors" is the province of archery, especially if you do not happen to own an auditorium.

"One port luck, three ports skill" is a fairly accurate description of archery. That is, if you count under "luck" all the non-talent circumstances that will keep a champion from shooting his best, or cause a neophyte to whang two bulleyes in a row.

Is archery the perfect sport—destined to be the first participation sport of the American people in, say, the 1950's? We don't know. But we do know two things:

- 1. Archery has grown steadily.
- 2. Archery checks out against any list of qualifications for the perfect sport, at least in the opinions of those recreational directors with whom we have talked so far.

So, make your own decision. Personally, we're going right on selling archery tackle. More each year, incidentally, for each year of the 17 we have been in business. Archers buying tackle only from us, last year bought \$3,000,000 worth of equipment. That, you know, takes quite a few archers.



No Trouble At All

SCHOOL WAS SOON to be closed. The car was old and there were no tires to be had. What was one to do in the city with summer vacation and four healthy children?

We called a family council for suggestions. Emily, who was 12, said, "Let's run a camp at home." Run a camp in our own backyard—a city lot 80' x 116'! We had planted many trees and bushes to make it a nice place to play. But a camp program? . . . Well, we did that very thing. Together we set up a schedule of work, handcrafts, special interests, trips, parties, overnight camping and cook-outs.

The family consisted of Daddy, who was not on vacation and not always home even at dinnertime, but was great on cook-outs, making beanhole beans or a pie baked in the ashes; Mom, who became camp chief; Emily, who named herself Pocahontas; David, 10 years old, Chief Wahoo; Hubert, seven years, called Little Feather; and James, the Papoose, who was only two.

Though that sounds like an Indian Camp it was so in names only, for we did whatever seemed interesting and did not follow a theme. Every morning Chief set up the schedules and posted them on the bulletin board on the back porch. No camp is complete without work—so we did all that was necessary.

Schedules

Our schedules varied from day to day. Each period was marked by chimes—three long pipes of different lengths hung to a tree limb and struck with a croquet mallet. Rising chimes were at 7:30 A.M. Breakfast was at 8. By 8:30 each camper was to have made his own bed and be ready for personal schedules. Monday schedules went as follows:

Pocahontas		Chief Wahoo	Little Feather
8:3	0 Dishes "Pick up" downstairs	Help with laundry	Look after Papoose
10:0	O Piano or personal interests	Hang out clothes	Help bring out clothes Play in yard
11:3		Free time	Free time
12:0		Lunch	Lunch
12:3		Dishes	Begin rest period
1:0	0 Rest	Rest	Rest
2:0	0 Handcraft in backyard	Handcraft in backyard	Handcraft in backyard

By CATHERINE P. WEIKART Youngstown, Ohio

P	cahontas	Chief Wahoo	Little Feather
1 Ocumonius		Citic) ir diloc	Dille I com.
4:00	Free play	Free play away from home	Free play at friends'
6:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
7:00	Free play at home or friends'	Free play at home	Free play at home

In the evening period we took special trips to the park for baseball or games or went on a nature hike or cook-out.

On Tuesday, Chief ironed while Pocahontas practiced the piano. Wahoo did the breakfast dishes. Little Feather played with Papoose and picked up trash in the yard. At the 10 chimes Pocahontas did her ironing while Chief mended the clothes. Wahoo mowed the lawn and Little Feather built his tree house and played in it. Lunch at noon was followed by doing the dishes and rest period until the 2 chimes rang for handcraft. The schedule proceeded as on Monday for the rest of the day.

Wednesday was a special day. Chief did up the dishes with Feather's help, while the others looked after Papoose and straightened up the house. By 10 all were ready, on alternate weeks, for a trip to the public library. Papoose enjoyed it as did the rest, spending his time in the Mothers' room looking at the picture books. He always had a number of books to bring home, never failing to include a train picture. Rest period was never hard to keep on these days, for each had his nose in his favorite book, well satisfied to be left alone. At the end of the season the two older children had read 14 books and all had borrowed many more.

Wednesday was a good day for Little Feather and his friends to do handcrafts. (The others could not be pried from their books.) Such things as little weather vanes or paddle boats could be made of orange crates or small scraps of boards in the two-hour period. Every boy and many girls in the neighborhood made a brightly painted boat. The rubber for the paddle wheel we cut from an old inner tube that somehow had missed the scrap collection.

Daddy was seldom home on Wednesday. So at 5 o'clock we would start out, each with his own lunch, for Indian Circle in our beautiful Mill

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Creek Park. "We" meant everyone in the neighborhood who cared to go. One Wednesday, 10 of us went for our picnic. A group of office girls just leaving the picnic spot asked if we would like some weiners. Would we! Just try to keep a group of young ones from wanting weiners. We accepted the gift and added it to our baked beans, pickles and marshmallows. My, what a feast we did have!

Thursday we got back to business. At 8:30 chimes Chief and Wahoo went upstairs to do the cleaning. A country friend of Pocahontas came in on Thursday to swim at a nearby pool. After the dishes were done, the two went swimming with the Girl Scouts. The friend stayed all day. At 10 chimes the others went each to his own interest—swimming, piano, garden, tree house. This was the time when Chief did a lot of "finishing up" and "catching up" and preparing lunch, giving Pocahontas a rest. By the first Thursday our hand-craft project was well under way. Four o'clock was free play time for all.

Friday Wahoo and Pokey, as we came to call her, exchanged work. Wahoo did the dishes. He never liked the job, but since it was on the camp schedule he accepted it. Pokey helped clean the downstairs and fixed the flowers as a special concession.

Mowing the lawn was too hard for Little Feather. The porches suffered under his efforts, but he had to have some scheduled work that he could do. He helped a great deal by playing with Papoose. For Papoose, we had a chicken wire pen which was fixed around the bushes and trees so that he didn't realize that he was in a pen. It was large enough to have sun and shade and the playthings necessary for a two-year-old. He could see right through the chicken wire, so it wasn't really like being fenced away. When we could, the rest of us spent time in the yard, too, so he didn't feel alone.

After handcraft on Fridays the free time was given over to games, to croquet, badminton, pingpong, duck-on-the-rock, quoits, singing games, hide-and-seek—the usual games that little folks like to play. One Friday there were 10 different games going on at once. This was open-house night and a campfire followed, with stories, songs and refreshments.

Soon after camp got under way we pitched a tent and one or another of the children could have a friend to spend Friday night in the tent with him. In the morning they cooked their own breakfast over the fire. Little Feather had a friend one night who went home about midnight so Chief had the rare privilege of spending the rest of the night





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in the camp "bed"—the ground! Soon Friday night camp was in great demand. The tent was filled up and doubled up until more nights had to be granted for the privilege. We found that four were too many in one pup tent!

Saturday we ran our schedule until noon. The older ones took turns with Sunday preparations. All work was done by noon and we were off to Grandpa's to work in our garden and to cook our supper in the old orchard picnic grounds. Sunday we went to church and Sunday school. Nothing else was especially scheduled for that day.

Activities

We had our bulletin board on the screened back porch. Every morning Chief posted the individual schedules for the day, adding little surprise items that came up (such as invitations to birthday parties). These surprises stepped up interest in the schedules. Any member of camp could post interesting items such as:

Two cardinals hatched this morning.

The bunnies were drowned in the cloudburst yesterday.

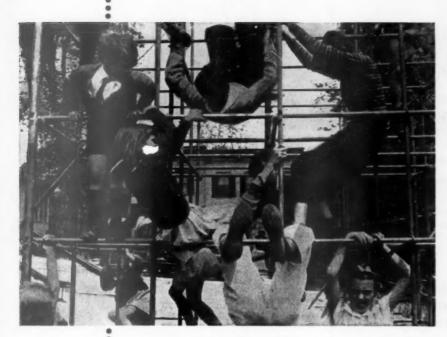
A queen ant wandered out of the rotten stump Little Feather is chopping up.

The staghorn beetle had a fight to the death under the cherry tree.

Surprising isn't it how many things can happen in one's own backyard?

This camp started one week after school closed in June and continued until August 21. In our handcraft work we made five lawn chairs of assorted sizes to suit different ages. The lumber was discarded crating from a nearby furniture store. When they were completed, we painted the chairs green. The one for Papoose was made of an orange crate. Three were for friends. Five weather vanes were placed on as many garages. We finished an unknown number of paddle boats of all sizes and other odds and ends of woodcraft the boys took a notion to make.

Best of all were our seven completely equipped and costumed marionettes. (Two others were started but not finished.) There were seven neighborhood children besides our own who worked on marionettes in our shop—the backyard. We completely equipped a miniature stage with velvet curtains (made from a neighbor's castoff dress) that pulled as any stage's should. Two Christmas tree strings furnished the lights. The scenery was hand-painted on the back of a piece of old oilcloth which rolled on broom handles (Wahoo's idea). The furniture was all made from cheese boxes and covered with the most extraordinary materials.





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OFFICE OF THE DEAN

We could make such lovely little things for that stage with lace or velvet scraps from the rag bag.

For our closing night the players made hand-bills and delivered them in our immediate neighborhood. When the curtain rose (in this same backyard) 55 adults, sitting about on the lawn, were waiting with eagerness to see Little Red Riding Hood. The wolf was of great interest. He had been made from a fur neckpiece and was very realistic. Little Feather had the job of wagging his tail and controlling his head. A Welchman of the neighborhood led the group in community singing and others who were musically inclined added to the evening with special numbers. The show was a great success—in interest, if not as a finished production. The cast served punch to complete the evening and camp came to a close.

Many interested visitors dropped in during the season. We didn't keep a total attendance chart—too much book work for Chief—but our estimate is that over 500 people "camped" during the summer. We had a wonderful vacation. No, the baby didn't suffer—he really thrived on it.

In the fall a casual acquaintance said to me, "We didn't have any trouble with our 10-year-old. When school was out we bought him a bike. In

the mornings I packed him a lunch and we didn't have to bother with him until dinnertime. We never even knew where he was."

We did! He came to our handcraft sessions almost daily! No, no trouble at all!

Now Off the Press

As WE GO TO PRESS with this playground issue of RECREATION, two new booklets have come from the printers ready for distribution. We are glad to be able to tell you about them, for we think they will be of interest to playground leaders and to all recreation workers everywhere.

Clubs in the Recreation Program (price 25 cents) charts a course for the leader who wants to set up all kinds of clubs for all kinds of people. There is a special section on "Clubs in the Playground Program." The whole booklet is designed to put together in one place the answers to all the hundreds of questions about clubs that have come into the National Recreation Association office over the years, and to answer them simply and directly and effectively.

The second new publication is planned to help you explore the increasing need for recreation programs tailored to fit the past-middle-agers. It is titled 11% Plus—Recreation for Older People and is also priced at 25 cents. It suggests some questions that must be asked before any community sets up a program for this important segment of our population, points to possible answers to those questions, and cites examples of different kinds of community action that has been taken in meeting the problem.

We think you'll like these booklets—like the format worked out to give you a maximum of information in a minimum of reading time, like the gay illustrations and the fine job of layout and printing, like having between one set of covers a digest of all the information that has come to the National Recreation Association from over the whole country.

Magazines and Pamphlets

Recently Received Containing Articles of Current Interest to the Recreation Worker

MAGAZINES

Public Management, January 1947

Management Policy on Employee Relations, Orin F. Nolting



No use to paint a pool if the coating won't stay on

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Paul P. Harris

Founder of Rotary International

PAUL P. HARRIS, founder of Rotary International, was always a good friend of the National Recreation Association and of the whole movement. During the first World War the Association did much in cooperation with Rotary International and came to know the rare spirit of Paul P. Harris.

Improving the Appearance of Cities, David D. Rowlands

Architectural Record, February 1947
Riverfront Redevelopment for Cincinnati

The American City, February 1947
Plans for a Cooperative "Balanced Community"

NEA Journal, February 1947

The Schools and Juvenile Delinquency, Donald DuShane

Parks and Recreation, February 1947

Park Commissioners Conduct Panel on Concessions
Chicago's Lake Front Parks and Parkways
Park Finances for Smaller Cities (Institute Convention address by George L. Chesley)

Frederick Noble Evans

PREDERICK N. EVANS' death November 30, 1946, brought to an end the long career of municipal service of Sacramento, California's, superintendent of parks. After receiving his Master's Degree in landscape architecture Mr. Evans spent several years in Cleveland, Ohio, designing gardens in that area. Then for two years he gave short courses on parks and subdivision designing at the University of Illinois and later was assistant professor of the Division of Landscape Architecture. In 1920 he resigned from the University of Illinois to become city landscape architect for Sacramento. In this position he had charge of over 1,200 acres of city land and designed many other parks, and he was the first to promote Sacramento's flower show on a large scale. Mr. Evans was the author of the book Town Improvement, and he wrote many articles on street trees and gardens. His hobbies included painting in oils and tending his own garden.

Vandalism (Institute Session talk by Hermann Karrow) The Maintenance Mart

Camping Magazine, January 1947

Winter Camping—A New Frontier, Fay Welch Too Much Freedom for Camp Counselors? Henry E. Utter

New Building Construction Materials, Julian H. Salomon

Outline of Insurance, William V. Dworski Camping in France, Susan Fleisher

The American City, January 1947

New Satellite Town of 25,000 Planned, Philip M. Klutznick

Distinctive Features of Insurance Company's Individual Home Development, Van Ness Bates

Development Plans for Cincinnati's Blighted Riverfront

Safety Education, February 1947

Chicago Plans for Safe Neighborhoods, H. Evert Kincaid

Parks and Recreation, January 1947

Training for Park and Landscape Management (Talk by George J. Albrecht) The Maintenance Mart

Think, January 1947

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Sportsmanship and World Peace, Thomas V. Haney

Junior League Magazine, January 1947

The Strategy of Art All This and Transcriptions Too

PAMPHLETS

Recreation in Cambridge

Planning Board, City Hall Annex, Cambridge 39, Mass.

Report of the Recreational and Cultural Resources Survey of the State of Washington

Office of the Secretary of State, Olympia, Washington

APRIL 1947



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WORLD AT PLAY

Getting Together

OKLAHOMA City's Teen Time program was three years old last November.

Recreation, dancing, a discussion period, and a closing Candlelight Worship Service have been bringing teen-agers together at the First Unitarian Church. There were only 14 young participants when the program was first begun, but now, because of increasing popularity, Teen Time members have been divided into a junior high group meeting on Sunday nights and a senior high group meeting on Saturday nights.

Sing a Game

THE "Farmer in the Dell," "The King of France," "London

Bridge," and "Lobby Loo" shared the spotlight with more than 500 youngsters in a singing games contest. The annual competition, held in St. Paul, Minnesota, for children under 12 years of age, was under the direction of junior leaders. One of the primary purposes of the contest was to give the junior leaders an opportunity to develop leadership and gain confidence in their ability to direct groups. Scoring points for the singing games were awarded to the competing recreation centers on the basis of their leader's ability, the play spirit displayed, total participation, general organization, and the number of spectators who cheered the local program.

Free Wheeling

A BICYCLE built for one is part of the recreation and exercise prescribed

for veterans. Bicycles are being distributed among 110 Veteran Administration hospitals and homes. Two wheelers are also being made available to men and women veterans for rides about hospital grounds, group trips to nearby points of interest, and for other recreation and entertainment purposes.

For the Ladies

WINONA, Minnesota, encouraged its female citizens to be creative. A

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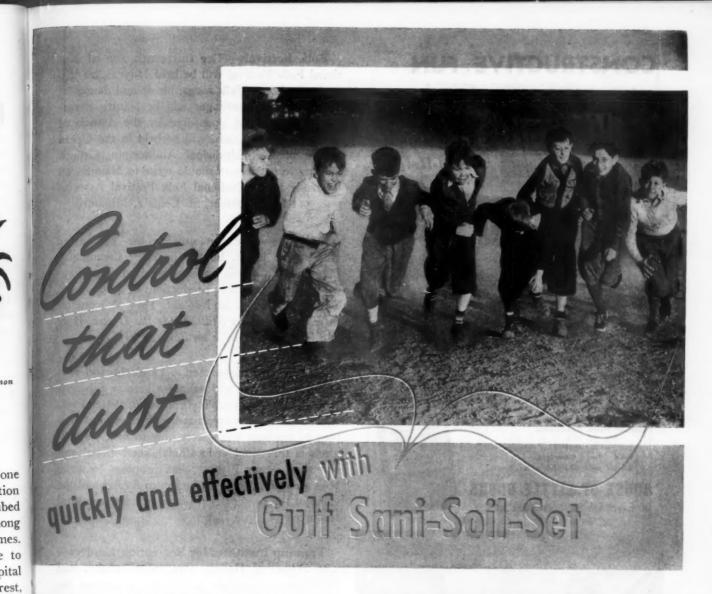
year

textile painting class for women was organized at two recreation centers. Members designed hand towels, pillow cases, aprons, dish towels, table cloths and napkins, handkerchiefs, dresser scarfs and other household necessities and luxuries.

On Your Feet

WALKING devotees were well taken care of in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. A

hiking club was organized which met alternately Saturday and Sunday afternoons during the spring and autumn months. The hikes were for grownups, but children were invited to attend if accompanied by an adult.



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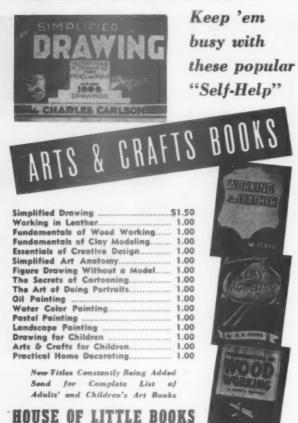
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MANUFACTURING CORPANY - ST. LOUIS 3, NO.

Folk Festival — The thirteenth annual National Folk Festival will be held May 21, 22, 23, 24 in St. Louis. Folk songs, music and dances of diverse cultural heritages will be feature attractions. The festival, sponsored by the Associated Retailers of St. Louis, will be held in the Opera House of Kiel Municipal Auditorium. Groups wishing to participate should write to Miss Sarah Gertrude Knott, National Folk Festival Association, 511 Locust Street, St. Louis 1, Missouri.

On Stage—The show must go on—even after a four year layoff. So the Berkeley Community Players of California were reorganized. The Players lent their talents to productions of Stage Door, The Male Animal, and M'liss. They also put on three one act plays Still Stands the House, Way of a Wife, and Heaven on Earth.

Our Future Fishermen — Don't be too surprised if your son and daughter become fish conscious. A new, non-profit corporation, Better Fishing, Inc., has been organized with the initial purpose of teaching youngsters how to fish. Its program is three-fold—educational, recreational and scientific. Better Fishing, Inc. proposes to make boys and girls aware of the fun in fishing and the value of the preservation of our country's natural resources.

Training Institutes for Recreation Leaders—The School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation of Indiana University announces the following training institutes for recreation leaders for the spring of 1947: May 23, 24 and 25, Indianapolis; June 6, 7, and 8, Calumet Extension Center, East Chicago, Indiana; June 13, 14, and 15, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The institute is sponsored by the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation and the Division of Adult Education and Public Services of Indiana University with the cooperation of local directors of municipal recreation. Correspondence should be directed to Garrett G. Eppley, Field Recreation Consultant, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

Teen-Agers Take Over—In Richmond, Virginia, the usual recreation situation was reversed. Teen-agers helped plan activities for their mothers, fathers, and other adults at 19 evening community centers. Crafts, drama, club work and parties were the highlights of their programs. Industrial, civic, social, and religious groups participated. Young and old enjoyed square dancing

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George W. Ehler

N FEBRUARY 15, George W. Ehler died at his home in Kew Gardens, New York, at the age of 81. About six years ago he retired as assistant to the Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America and Director of the Boy Scout Statistical Service.

In the early days of the National Recreation Association he was closely associated with his friend Luther Halsey Gulick, and very active in helping with the work. He served as Secretary of the Public Athletic League and the Children's Playground Association in Baltimore, and later was professor of physical education and director of athletics at the University of Wisconsin. He was active in working with Dr. Clark W. Hetherington and others on the first normal course in play, which appeared about 38 years ago. He saw very clearly much that was to happen in the recreation movement in America.

with string music, shop, sewing, drama, forums and other activities. There were 113 recreation workers at the center and an attendance of 106,164. The school board contributed the full use of school buildings and assisted with special leadership.

National Boys and Girls Week—"Youth—the Trustees of Posterity" will be the theme of the 27th annual observance of National Boys and Girls Week, April 26 to May 3. Activities planned for the celebration will emphasize education, recreation, home life, health, safety and other important factors in the growth of youth.

Competition—Baitcasters were challenged to show their skill in Minneapolis at a playground baitcasting tournament climaxing the Northwest Sportsman's Show. A total of 255 boys and 70 girls entered the preliminary tourneys. Casters from Anoka, Mankato, and New Brighton as well as from Minneapolis competed in the final round.

Facts and Figures — Westchester County, New York, according to a recent report is going places recreationally speaking. It has 17 year-round public recreation programs with annual budgets running from \$5,000 to \$103,000. There are, in addition, 15 part-time or seasonal programs. A total sum of \$620,000 was appropriated in the county for recreation in 1946.

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Summer Session Offerings

Second Annual Workshop in Recreational Leadership, June 23-July 25, 2-8 credit hrs. Complete offering of undergraduate and graduate courses in Health, Physical Education, Recreation. Coaching School, August 4-9. inc. Organized trips to Yellowstone, The Black Hills, Grand Canyon, Pike's Peak, Central City, Fishing and outdoor life in the "Old West" and the "Rockies." Fees reasonable. Housing available. Quarter June 6-Aug. 15. "Session," June 23-July 25.

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BULUTH, MINN.

Boxing Without Thumbs — Boxing gloves have been revolutionized—no thumbs! MacGregor-Goldsmith, sports equipment company of Cincinnati, Ohio, developed the "thumbless" glove to prevent dislocation of thumbs and protect opponents from eye injuries resulting from thumb jabs. Created four years ago, the "thumbless" model is described as an internal, cone-shaped palm grip placing the knuckles on a level line, thereby absorbing the blow through the hand and consequently reducing injuries. Foamed leather is provided for the heel of the hand.

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New Publications in the Leisure Time Field

Your Manners Are Showing

By Betty Betz. Verses by Anne Clark. Grosset & Dunlap, New York. \$2.00.

HERE'S GOOD ADVICE for the teen-age crowd that's easy to take because the author speaks teen language in both words and pictures. Many of the problems that come with the business of growing up are handled with cleverness and dexterity and without the kind of solemn adult superiority calculated to irritate any young thing under 21. The book is highly recommended for teen-age libraries be they in teen centers, schools or elsewhere. Adult leaders, incidentally, might find some hints for handling the younger set, will certainly find an hour's entertainment in Your Manners Are Showing.

Band and Orchestra Handbook

Pan-American Band Instrument Company, Elkhart, Indiana. \$1.00.

HIS LITTLE BOOK has some useful information for those interested in the larger instrumental ensembles. The chapters on organization give special attention to the group instruction method, and further chapters are devoted to aptitude tests, proper care of instruments, seating plans, tuning charts, the marching band, conducting and recording and broadcasting. There is an initial chapter on music and the basic objectives of education and a comprehensive section outlining practical fund-raising ideas. A model constitution for a "Music Parents Club" indicates how such a group could function as a stimulus and a standby for a band or orchestra composed of young people.

Sing in Praise

By Opal Wheeler. E. P. Dutton and Company, Inc., New York. \$3.00.

HERE IS ANOTHER of the delightful songbooks compiled by Opal Wheeler. Like Sing for Christmas, Sing Mother Goose and Sing for America this volume combines with the words and music of familiar songs, stories of the creation and illustrations in color and in black and

Sing in Praise is a book of 19 hymns that are, or should be, a part of every child's musical vocabulary. The stories and Marjorie Torrey's pictures add interest and pleasure for any individual singer or group of singers.

River of the Sun

By Rose Calom. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, New Mexico. \$3.50.

THESE "STORIES OF THE STORIED GILA" can be helpful to the recreationist in many ways. The book itself is full of stories well worth including in any library of leisuretime reading. Beyond that there is much lore and color, many facts and word portraits that may well form the background for pageants or plays, craft classes or nature clubs. Or, on a more academic plane, the book could be useful for any club or group which has for its collective hobby the collection of interesting facts about the United States.

Group Process in Administration

By Harleigh B. Trecker. The Womans Press, New York. \$2.75.

"HIS IS A BOOK not only for administrators but also for board members and for other volunteer workers. Various groups in each educational, religious and social agency ought to understand what the needs are to be met, think problems through together and work together on plans for meeting the needs. It is important to avoid wasting time on what is not essential and to take plenty of time for what is vital. The primary function of administration, as Mr. Trecker sees it, is to provide leadership of a continuously helpful kind, so that all persons engaged in the manifold workings of the agency may advance the agency to ever more significant service and accomplishment.

Fun at the Playground, Fun in Swimming

By Bernice Frissell and Mary Friebels. MacMillan Company, New York.

HESE BOOKS-priced \$1.00 and \$1.20 respectively-are delightfully illustrated by Kate Seredy. They are attractive and very interesting "sports readers" for young children with second grade reading ability - excellent preparation for the enjoyment of the playground and the swimming pool. Teachers, librarians, and any leaders of groups of elementary-age children will wish to add these to their children's libraries. The situations are simple and natural, with realistic children as the characters. Recommended.

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OFFICERS

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Recreation Training Institutes

April, May and June

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HELEN DAUNCEY	Watertown, S. D.	George D. Jenkins, First Congregational Church
	*Peoria, Illinois	R. L. Horney, Superintendent of Recreation
	*Lexington, Ky.	Miss Anna S. Pherigo, Board of Park Commissioners
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	Manhattan, Kans.	Leo Green, Director of Recreation
RUTH EHLERS	*Akron, Ohio	A. E. Genter, Director of Recreation
	*Davenport, Iowa	Ted Corry, Director of Recreation
JANE FARWELL	Kennebec, Me.	For information about any of Miss Farwell's Maine Iinstitutes get in contact with
	Oxford, Me. April 14-18 Franklin, Me.	G. E. Lord, Agricultural Extension Service, Orono, Me.
	April 21-25	
	April 28-May 2	
	Gates Mills, Ohio May 19-24	Mrs. Irving Gressle
	Oglebay Institute	E. N. Steckel, Wheeling, W. Va.
ANNE LIVINGSTON	Radford, Va.	Oglebay Institute, Wheeling, W. Va. W. W. Dukes, Superintendent of Recreation
	Parkersburg, W. Va.	W. D. Pearson, Director, Wood County Recre-
	May 5-9	ation Commission, 1811 St. Mary's Avenue
		Miss Margaret R. Swartz, Superintendent of Recreation
	*Steubenville, Ohio	F. Y. Linton, Director, Parks and Recreation Department
	*Providence, R. I.	John Cronin, Recreation Department
FRANK STAPLES	Austin, Texas	B. S. Sheffield, Acting Director of Recreation
	Birmingham, Ala.	King Sparks, Jr., Parks and Recreation Board
	Pennsylvania State College	A. L. Baker, Agricultural Extension Service, State College, Pa.
GRACE WALKER	St. Paul, Minn. April 7-25	Dorothy T. Griffiths, International Institute, Inc., 183 W. Kellogg Boulevard
	RUTH EHLERS JANE FARWELL ANNE LIVINGSTON FRANK STAPLES	April 21-25 *Peoria, Illinois June 2-6 *Lexington, Ky. June 9-13 *Janesville, Wis. June 16-17 *Beloit, Wis. June 18-20 Manhattan, Kans. April 28-May 2 *Akron, Ohio May 12-16 *Davenport, Iowa June 9-13 Kennebec, Me. April 7-11 Oxford, Me. April 14-18 Franklin, Me. April 21-25 Aroostook, Me. April 21-25 Aroostook, Me. April 21-25 Aroostook, Me. April 14-18 Franklin, Ohio May 19-24 Oglebay Institute May 29-June 1 Radford, Va. April 14-18 Parkersburg, W. Va. May 5-9 York, Pa. May 19-21 *Steubenville, Ohio June 9-11 *Providence, R. I. June 2-6 Austin, Texas March 31-April 11 Birmingham, Ala. April 28-May 9 Pennsylvania State College June 4-6 GRACE WALKER Ky. April 18-May 9 Pennsylvania State College June 4-6 St. Paul, Minn.

In addition to the institutes listed above, the National Recreation Association is also conducting May 12-24 a two-week training course in recreation activities for colored leaders. This institute will be held in Washington, D. C., at the Banneker Center Servicemen's Club. The Recreation Department of the District of Columbia is cooperating in connection with local arrangements. The institute will be directed by E. T. Attwell, Field Representative of the National Recreation Association. On the staff will be Mrs. Anne Livingston, Miss Grace Walker, Frank Staples, James Madison and Arthur Todd. The course will include music; drama, choric verse and creative recreation; arts and crafts; social recreation; recreative athletics; and community organization and administration. The number of registrations for

*Summer playground institutes.

Staff workers of the National Recreation Association are also cooperating this summer in camp leadership training institutes in South Carolina and Tennessee. Both institutes will be conducted June 9-20. H. G. Metcalf is to be director of the Tennessee institute at Montgomery Bell State Park. (For further information write B. R. Allison at White Bluff.) Reynold Carlson will direct the nature program at the South Carolina institute. (For further information write to C. West Jacocks, State Commission of Forestry, Columbia, S. C.)

the institute is necessarily limited. Applications should be addressed to Mr. Attwell.

"... there is a major and over-all objective toward which we aim. It is the preparation and adjustment of the individual for global living, which is of deep concern to all agencies serving youth today. In this particular field of endeavor, I believe recreation holds an enviable, as well as precarious position. We as recreation people work in the most precious material earth or heaven affords—humanity. Through correct interpretation, our service can transcend barriers of age, race, creed and color, and even the boredom of free time.

"If we are to believe the forecasts of leaders in education, scientific research, the world is about to enter (as one educator says) an era of 'bread and circuses.' Our concern will not be how to survive an atomic age, but how to live in it. We will be faced with two problems—security and boredom, the latter due to a superabundance of free time made available through inventions of an atomic age. There will, therefore, be ever increasing demands upon recreation programs to teach the individual how to use this time in ways enjoyable and profitable both to himself and his community."

-Ruby M. Payne, Director, Crispus Attucks
Recreation and Community Center.